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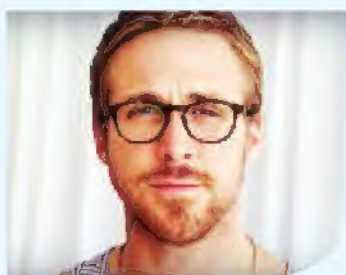
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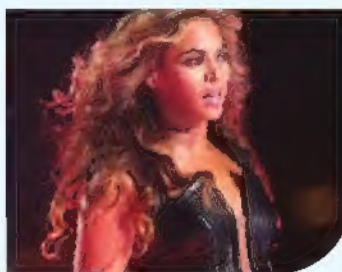
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## The Editor's Note

Ryan Humphreys @ryanhumphreys

Welcome to the February Issue of Midlands Zone magazine. 2014 is now in full swing and I'm already crossing fingers for an early summer - the team here are getting pretty bored of winter!

### LGBT Centre turns one



One year ago, in a first for England and Wales, the team at Birmingham LGBT - one of the Midlands' biggest gay charities - introduced the city's gay community to its very own LGBT health and wellbeing centre. And what a twelve months it's been for the centre since opening!

I had the pleasure of sitting down with David Viney, the Health and Wellbeing Manager at Birmingham LGBT, to talk about the centre, how it's gone in the past year and what effect it's had on the community.

It's safe to say that the Birmingham LGBT Centre's impact has been profound. It's enabled people to access services they never thought they needed, providing invaluable help in people's lives. Whether it's been sexual health testing, counselling, signposting services or fitness classes, it's clear that the LGBT Centre has been a huge success, not only for the charity, but for Birmingham's LGBT community.

### Sexuality at Sochi



The Winter Olympics get underway in Sochi, Russia, on 7 February, and LGBT communities around the world will be watching on with both interest and concern.

Although President Putin has said he and his country will be welcoming to LGBT athletes and spectators, it'll be interesting to see just how the government and Russian citizens react once those athletes and spectators actually arrive.

With bans on 'gay propaganda' in place, and Putin telling gays to leave Russian kids alone, there's sure to be a lot of people concerned for their safety whilst in Russia, during the course of what's supposed to be one of the most tolerant sporting events in the world.

### It's LGBT History Month



LGBT History Month is an annual observance of gay history and the history of gay rights. We celebrate it in February so that it coincides with the abolition of Section 28 back in 2005.

The occasion is often marked with educational lessons in schools, public exhibitions and theatrical works. Here in the Midlands, there's a host of associated events taking place, including film screenings and musical recitals.

One of the highlights is the Educate & Celebrate music showcase, taking place at the children's library within the Library of Birmingham. Elly Barnes has worked with the city's schools to create a thought-provoking yet poignant show that really gets the message across.

### Out in Football



It was great to see former Aston Villa footballer Thomas Hitzlsperger come out last month. Whilst openly gay sports stars are few and far between, Hitzlsperger is certainly the most high-profile footballer to do so thus far. However, he only felt comfortable taking that step out of the closet once he'd retired from the beautiful game. This clearly means there's still a long way to go before players feel comfortable enough to come out while still playing. Hopefully, 2014 will be a year of change, and we'll see a current player taking that leap of faith.

## What's Hot!

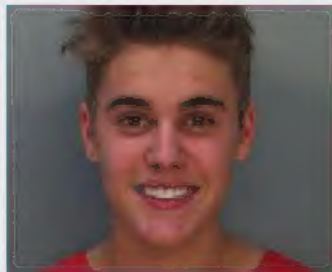
### Mr Selfridge is back!



We're huge fans of Mr Selfridge here at Midlands Zone. It's a great show, but that's not really the reason we get so excited. You see, we've got a bit of a man-crush on Jeremy Piven, who plays Harry Selfridge in the hit ITV show. We've noticed a big Piven-shaped hole in our lives, so we're delighted he's back on our telly!

## What's Not!

### Justin Bieber banged up!



Although many gay men across the country find Justin Bieber smoking-hot, we're not the biggest of fans. Last month, it was reported across the world that Bieber was charged with drag racing (no, not the RuPaul kind) and driving whilst under the influence of alcohol and marijuana. Is it a sign of things to come for the young star? Will he end up 'doing a Britney'? We've got the popcorn ready, because we're waiting!

### Planning on being one of the first to tie the knot?

Following the news that gay marriages will take place in the UK from 29 March, we're on the lookout for couples who'd like to feature in Midlands Zone magazine. Whether it's the planning leading up to the big day or the wedding itself, we'd love to hear from you!

If you're interested in being featured in a future issue of Zone, get in touch with its Editor, Ryan, by emailing [ryan@midlandszone.co.uk](mailto:ryan@midlandszone.co.uk)



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# Tom Hayes

**HIV writer & activist**  
Birmingham

Born: **Redditch**

Star sign: **Libra**

Age: **28**

*Each month we take a look at someone from the Midlands LGBT community.*

*This month, our focus turns on Tom Hayes, a HIV writer and activist from Birmingham.*

## About Tom

### Where did you grow up?

I'm a Midlands boy. I grew up in a little village called Astwood Bank, just outside Redditch. I lived in London for eight years, and now I live in Birmingham City Centre - rural life is just too slow for me.

### Single or attached?

I'm happily attached to a lovely guy called Tommy. We met on Twitter several years ago and started dating last April - I couldn't be happier.

### What makes you happy?

I want to say gin, but that's bad, right? Travel is a big passion of mine; I just love to explore. I'm off on a holiday around Europe in June, which I can't wait for, and I've been doing a lot of work abroad lately, which is pretty exciting. My other big love is technology; I'm always after the latest must-have gadget.

### What makes you angry?

Discrimination in any shape, size or form. Everyone on this planet was born equal. It shouldn't matter what colour skin you have, how old you are, what sex you were born or who you want to love. We're all beautiful in our own way, and I wish more people could see that.

### What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

Amateur Strip Night at a bar in London. There's a bar called The White Swan in East London, and every Wednesday they have amateur strip night, where the public can compete against each other

for a cash prize. I took part and I won, which was amazing. But in my drunken state, I hadn't realised how many of my friends were in the crowd. Cringe.

### What's your best chat-up line?

I don't think I've ever used a chat-up line; they're generally awful. I have a terrible habit of saying "Whilst you're down there..." when people bend over, though. Not sure that counts!

### If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

My body in general, I think. Men are under tremendous pressure to look good these days, and especially gay men. We're constantly shown ripped men in underwear adverts. As a tall, skinny person, I sometimes feel like I'm failing at being a good gay man.

## Coming Out

### When did you first know you were gay?

I think around the age of seven or so. We played kiss-chase in our street after school, and I was much more interested in chasing the boys than the girls. I knew something was different.

### When did you come out?

I came out at the age of thirteen, in the middle of a chemistry class. Someone was being bullied for being gay, and I stood up to the bully and said, "What's wrong with being gay". I think ever since that day I've known I wanted to be an activist. Almost everyone was cool with it too. I think that's in part because I grabbed this issue by the balls and stood up for my-

self. I told my parents later that day and they've been great about it.

### What was school like for you as a gay teenager?

I was the dorky computer geek kid who hung around with the other computer geeks. That was until I came out. Then, all of a sudden, I had a lot of girl friends (cliche, I know). High school wasn't great for me, but it turned out a lot better than I thought it was going to be. I think that's because I started to accept who I really was.

### Who was the first person you told, and what was their reaction?

I think the first person I told who took it seriously was a girl called Nicola, who was in my French class. She had a bit of a thing for me, so didn't take it too well, but she quickly came round and became one of my best friends.

### Have you ever slept with a woman?

No. I did consider it once, at about the age of sixteen, just to find out what it was like. I ended up kissing a girl at a party and thought, "Nope, this isn't working". I'm definitely a very homosexual homosexual.

## Your Career

### When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Since about the age of five, when I got my first computer, I wanted to work in IT. It was my passion, and it was what I was good at. Later on in life, I ended up working in IT and absolutely hated it!

### What was your first job?

My first proper job was as an IT administrator for a swanky architects in Soho, London. I really liked the people, and it was cool working in Soho, but I absolutely loathed actually working in IT. "Have you tried turning it off and on again?". I decided that, whilst I love technology, it's more of a hobby for me than a job.

### When did you first become involved in community work?

I've always been very passionate about helping the community that I'm in. The first thing I probably did was set up a residents' association for the development I lived in down in London. I got to use my tech knowledge to create a website and chatroom. We had meetings to sort out issues and arrange social events. It felt really good to be involved in making the place I lived better - as well as making lots of friends.

### You work in HIV activism. What do you do and how long have you been doing it?

I was diagnosed HIV-positive back in 2011 after a very short-lived relationship with a completely unsuitable guy down in London. Immediately after my diagnosis, I realised that there was a lack of support for people living with HIV - and especially younger gay men. So I started blogging and tweeting about my journey, under the pseudonym 'UKPositiveLad', to give others an accurate picture of what it means to live with HIV in the 21st century. The blog quickly took off and, before long, it had thousands of visitors a day. I ended up writing for Attitude Magazine for a year, and have done national TV and radio dozens of times, as well as writing the monthly Living With HIV column for MidlandsZone. In recent months I've spoken at the House of Commons, European Parliament and the United Nations on the need to improve HIV information services for young LGBT people. August 2013 saw the launch of a magazine that I run and edit called beyondpositive ([www.beyondpositive.org](http://www.beyondpositive.org)). It's a magazine written by people living with HIV for people living with HIV. When we say 'people living with HIV', we don't mean just the person who has the virus, we also mean their family, friends and co-workers. It's proving to be incredibly popular and has even been promoted on the CNN news channel.

### What's the worst thing about your job?

I think the worst bit is the fact that I find it very hard to switch off. Be-



cause I work for myself and largely from home, my brain is always thinking about things I need to do: articles to write, presentations to create, emails to reply to, policies to read. I quite often find myself sat in bed at 3am proof-reading treatment guidelines. My work/life balance could use some tweaking!

#### What makes your job so worthwhile?

Change. That's what I started out wanting to make happen - and, step by step, it's happening. Politicians, policy-writers and doctors aren't used to young HIV-positive people standing up and publicly saying what they want. Slowly, we're changing the way they work for the better. I also get emails saying how my work is helping other people living with HIV feel that they're not so alone, and that makes me feel all warm and gooey inside. I feel like I'm making a difference, and that's my drug.

#### What do you see your future role in the community being?

There's been a lot of talk around HIV cures and vaccines lately, but even if the research teams found something tomorrow, it would be five or ten years before we would have an approved product for use - and we're nowhere near finding the answer. So for now we must continue both to help prevent new HIV infections and support those living with HIV.

As I look to the future, I see my work expanding from just HIV to both mental health and sexual health in general, especially the rising cases of Hepatitis C among gay and bi men.

I started my career in activism by telling my story and getting people to listen, but now, two years later, I'm finding my role is more in helping other people living with HIV stand up and find their voice.

## Gay Scene

#### What do you most enjoy about the gay scene?

I love how diverse the scene is, and especially the Birmingham scene. I've travelled all over the UK, and indeed the world, and visited the gay scene in most of the places I've been. I've found few as accepting and friendly as I have the Birmingham scene. I think it's great how every single part of the LGBTI rainbow is accepted on the Birmingham scene, and I hope we can continue to build on that in the coming years.

#### Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

That's a really tough question. There are so many great people on the scene, who do you choose? I think Lawrence Barton definitely deserves props for his work on the scene over the past few years. He saved The Nightingale from financial collapse and works tirelessly on Birmingham Pride, as well as the Pride Ball, which provides essential funds to LGBTI charities across Birmingham. He also lets Healthy Gay Life use The Nightingale's VIP room for HIV testing - an important move to help improve testing in our region.

#### What have you noticed about the way the gay scene has changed over the years?

I first started hitting the gay scene in Birmingham when I was 14. Now, another 14 years later, so much has changed - most notably the redevelopment of the area with Southside and Latitude. I think bringing housing into the gay quarter of Birmingham has done wonders for the area. It's now a village and part of Birmingham, rather than being out on a limb.

#### How would you change the Midlands' gay scene?

If I had the money, I'd buy the old Route 2 and turn it into a bright colourful cheese pop club! I'd also turn the car park opposite Sidewalk into a nice park. The Birmingham scene is great, but it's lacking a communal public space like Soho Square, or Sackville Gardens in Manchester.

## Time Out

#### What do you do to relax?

For me, nothing beats a nice hot bath and a gin & tonic. I can spend hours in the bath, watching TV and soaking away my troubles. Other than that, I've recently discovered my addiction to Skyrim on the XBOX - dragons beware!

#### What was the last album or track you bought?

The last track I bought was Katy Perry's Roar. I'm not her biggest fan but the lyrics really spoke to me as an activist. "I used to bite my tongue and hold my breath, Scared to rock the boat and make a mess. So I sat quietly, agreed politely, I guess that I forgot I had a choice". Sometimes we have to just say 'hell with it', stand up and say what we believe.

#### Which type of holiday do you prefer?



Cruises. I know they have a tired image of old people playing bridge and ballroom dancing, but that's really not the reality these days. We'll be going from Barcelona to Monte Carlo, Rome, Florence, Naples and plenty of other ports - all while being served cocktails. What's not to love?

#### Where do you like to go on a night out?

When me and my mates go for a night out, we usually start with pre-drinks at one of our apartments, then head to Eden for a couple (we love it there, so unpretentious). Then it's onto The Village Inn, to warm up for a dance, and then to The Nightingale, to dance until we drop.

#### Which one website do you spend the most time on?

That's a tough one - I'd say it's completely 50/50 between my own website, beyondpositive.org - adding new content and replying to comments etc - and Twitter. I'm a complete Twitter addict, with nearly 6,000 followers and 42,000 tweets. It's such a time-suck, but it's good fun! You can find me on Twitter as @UKPositiveLad.

## Quickfire

#### Who's your favourite actor?

Sandra Bullock.

#### What's your favourite book?

No Logo, by Naomi Klein.

#### Half-empty or half-full?

Half-full, unless you catch me before my first cup of coffee in the morning, when I'll likely bludgeon you with a half-empty cup!

#### If you could be a superhero for the day, who would you be?

It's a tough call. Either Superman or Batman. I'd probably go with Superman, though, as he can fly and see through walls. All I'd need was access to the England rugby team's changing rooms...

#### What's your favourite colour?

Teal or turquoise. It reminds me of calm, warm seas and my holidays abroad.

#### Cut or uncut?

It doesn't really bother me one way or the other - as long as they're big!



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**What's On**  
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## PRIDE Early buy discounted tickets for this year's Birmingham Pride go on sale this month

**Early buy discounted tickets for this year's Birmingham Pride go on sale this month.**

Lawrence Barton, Festival Director says of the news: "This is a great time to take advantage of early buy discounted tickets for what promises to be another excellent Pride event. I urge people to get their tickets now at these greatly reduced prices while they can, as there are only a limited amount of tickets available on this first release.

"It's also extremely important to ensure that families can get involved with the festival, so we're once again offering free entry to children under ten-years-old when accompanied by a wristbanded adult"

"We also want to encourage older LGBT visitors, so Pride is offering a 50% discount for seniors on weekend tickets. And for those that want to experience the event in style we're also offering VIP weekend tickets again".

The forthcoming event is the city's 18th Pride since the festival launched in 1997, and follows on from a hugely successful 2013 event where a staggering 125,000 people turned out for the two day event, which included the carnival parade. A record breaking £75,136 was also raised for charity.

The theme for this year's event is Global Equality, which recognises the need to challenge the homophobic attitudes that continue to prevail in countries across the world.

Commenting on the 2014 event, Mr Barton said: "After a hugely successful Pride last year, it's important for Birmingham as a city and as a fantastic gay destination that we build on that success in 2014".



Early buy discounted tickets go on sale on Friday 7 February. An early buy day ticket is £7; a weekend ticket, £10. VIP weekend tickets are £27 – all subject to a booking fee. Tickets will be available from gay venues in the city and at [www.birminghampride.com](http://www.birminghampride.com)

Birmingham Pride takes place on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 May.

## CHARITY Gay rights campaigner Peter Tatchell becomes patron of local LGBT charity

LGBT rights campaigner Peter Tatchell has been announced as a patron of local charity LGBT Network Wolverhampton.

Hailed as both a 'national hero' by the Sunday Times and 'one of the most influential gay men of this century' by The Independent On Sunday, Mr Tatchell has paved the way in the struggle for equality, championing not only LGBT rights but all human rights.

Commenting on the news, Mr Tatchell said: "I'm honoured to be patron of LGBT Network Wolverhampton and to support the amazing, important work it does. The network performs a very valuable social service, bringing together the local LGBT community, celebrating its contribution to the city and supporting vulnerable LGBT people. It is a wonderful community asset."

Tatchell's patronage will serve as an ongoing inspiration to the Network's many volunteers, with whom the organisation's vital work wouldn't be possible.

Martha Bishop, the Network's



General Manager, said: "I couldn't be more thrilled or more proud that someone as courageous and dedicated as Peter Tatchell is choosing to lend his support and to put his internationally respected name to our organisation."

## CHARITY Walsall Pride announces date for 2014 charity ball



Organisers of Walsall Pride have announced that they'll be holding a second annual Pride Ball, following the success of the 2013 event.

Last year saw the town's Arbor Lights venue host the first Pride Ball, with a night of fine food and fantastic entertainment raising much-needed funds for the Pride festival itself.

The Ball is the first major event in the town's 2014 LGBT calendar. This year's Ball takes place on Friday 9 May, once again at Arbor Lights, and will feature a top-quality menu and plenty of entertainment. Tickets cost £45 per head or £400 for a table of 10.



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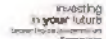
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## FILM Critically acclaimed documentary set for LGBT History Month screening in Shrewsbury

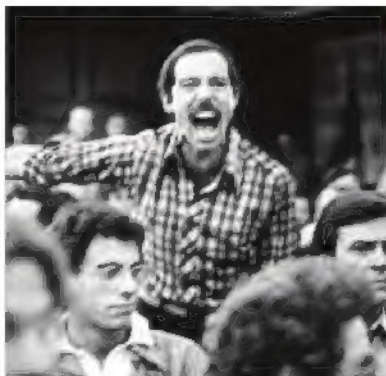
The Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival is celebrating this year's LGBT History Month with a screening of the critically acclaimed film *Vito*.

*Vito* is a documentary about Vito Russo, who was an LGBT activist in the United States from 1969 to 1990.

Russo became an activist at the time of the Stonewall Riots, and was a leading figure in the ACTUP years, during the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. Along with fellow activists such as Harvey Milk, Russo fought hard to help bring about significant changes for LGBT people.

Commenting on the screening, Geoff Hardy, organiser of the Rainbow Film Festival, said: "Vito, with its extensive archive film footage, is brilliant, in a similar way to the film *Milk*. It's a film that reminds us just how far we've come in a relatively short time, and what it took to get us to where we are today. It shows us that we can make changes in our world, if we stand and act together".

*Vito* is being screened at 8pm on Thursday 20



February, at The Hive in Shrewsbury. Tickets are £5/£4. They are on sale now from [www.hiveonline.org.uk](http://www.hiveonline.org.uk), or by calling 01743 234970. They will also be available on the door.

## HEALTH Midlands healthcare trust named second best LGBT-friendly employer

Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust has been named the second best gay-friendly employer in the country - and the best in the health service for the second year running.

NursingTimes.net reports: "The Nottinghamshire trust was the highest placed NHS organisation, followed by the London Ambulance Service Trust and Central and North West London Foundation Trust.

"Four trusts that primarily provide mental health services made the NHS top 10, along with two acute trusts, two ambulance trusts and a community trust.

"Stonewall senior health officer James Taylor said: "Hopefully their success will inspire other NHS trusts and foundations to continue their efforts to become workplaces where their gay staff can achieve their full potential."

"The Nottinghamshire provider was also the highest placed NHS organisation in 2010 and 2011 - it was beaten by Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust in 2012.

"Organisations are ranked based on their submissions to 25 questions covering eight areas of workforce policy and practice. Entries must be backed by evidence, including a staff feedback survey.

"The Stonewall Health Champions programme is funded by the Department of Health, and provides free support to 20 NHS organisations in England for one year to improve health services for lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

"It includes support to establish a lesbian, gay and bisexual network group for staff."

## MUSIC Educate & Celebrate music event for LGBT History Month



Former Independent On Sunday Pink List Number One Elly Barnes has organised a Birmingham music event as part of February's LGBT History Month celebrations.

The Educate & Celebrate Birmingham Schools Showcase will present music by Birmingham's schools, teachers and professional artists.

The free-to-attend event takes place at 6.30pm on Wednesday 26 February at the Children's Library, which is situated within the new Library of Birmingham (in Centenary Square).

The event is part of a wider range of activities taking place on the day, including Primary and Secondary School workshops.

Tickets to attend the showcase can be reserved online at the Library of Birmingham website - [www.libraryofbirmingham.com](http://www.libraryofbirmingham.com).

## NATIONAL NEWS

### CHARITY Stonewall chief to step down

Stonewall has announced that Ben Summerskill is to step down as Chief Executive of the lesbian, gay and bisexual charity after eleven years at the helm.

Ben's time as Chief Executive saw a dramatic change in the legal landscape for lesbian, gay and bisexual people in Britain. During his tenure, he led successful campaigns to secure legal equality for gay people in Britain, including the repeal of Section 28, goods and services protections, civil partnerships and marriage equality.

### POLITICS Petition calls for Bank Holiday to be named after gay codebreaker

A petition has been started to push the Government to rename the August Bank Holiday after late gay computer genius and codebreaker Alan Turing, rather than after Margaret Thatcher.

PinkNews.co.uk reports: "The petition calls for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to rename the holiday after Turing. This comes amid a controversy over possible plans to rename the day after Margaret Thatcher. Turing was prosecuted for gross indecency in 1952, after having a relationship with another man.

"The mathematical genius and code-breaker was the effective inventor of the modern computer, and a key driver behind the victory over the Nazis.

### EDUCATION Scottish schools to introduce lessons on same-sex marriage

Scottish schools will be introducing lessons in same-sex marriage and sexual health for gay couples.

Gay Star News reports: "The government is currently updating its guidelines on relationships, parenthood and sexual health education.

"But a draft version has revealed they are planning on taking into account the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill, saying all children should understand same-sex couples exist and are a part of everyday life.

GET ALL THE LATEST NEWS AS IT HAPPENS AT [MIDLANDSZONE.CO.UK](http://MIDLANDSZONE.CO.UK)

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# Sexual Health



**Gaylife Staffordshire Stoke on Trent** is a sexual health and lifestyle service created especially for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities of Staffordshire and Stoke On Trent. We are a one stop shop for any information, advice or guidance you need to manage your sexual health. Want to find out more about us and our work?

Then why not add us on Facebook or Twitter.



Gaylife Staffordshire-Stoke



GayLifeNstaffs



# IT'S GONE VIRAL! What we've been looking at on the web...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

## Ones to watch - the best **videos**...



### Love Pop? Watch this!

Superstar remixer Robin Skouterie returns with his latest installment of PopLove - a mashup of 56 huge hits from 2013, including Robin Thicke, Miley Cyrus, Ellie Goulding, Calvin Harris and Icona Pop [youtu.be/s82ALeqqeCw](http://youtu.be/s82ALeqqeCw)



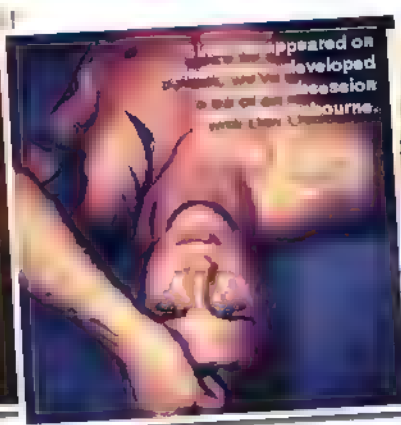
### Mean Boyz

Celebrating ten years of Mean Girls (ten years already?!), Toderick Hall created this spoof trailer for Mean Boyz. There are even some well-known faces from the 'gaynet', including Colby Melvin, William Belli and Chris Crocker. [youtu.be/hzRt56XbrNA](http://youtu.be/hzRt56XbrNA)

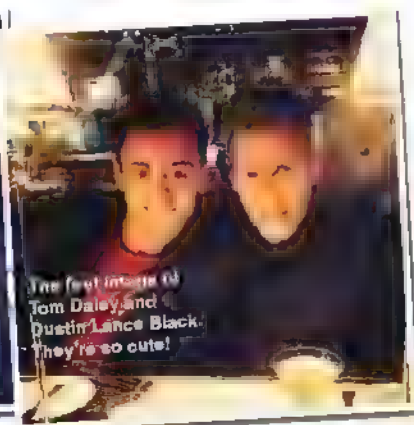
## Our top three **Instagram** snaps!



Gay YouTube sensation Davey Wavey, topless with apples. Winner!

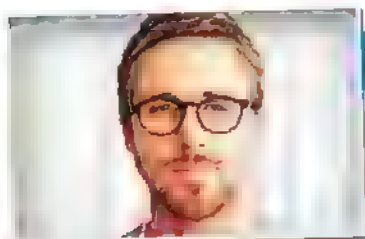


Appeared on... developed... session... with... Unleashed...



The best thing is Tom Daley and Dustin Lance Black. They're so cute!

## You can never have too much **Gosling**!



### 50 sexy things Ryan Gosling did in 2013!

Ah, BuzzFeed! One of our favourite websites, it curates lists of, well, things! But it's topped every single list ever created with its 50 Sexiest Things That Ryan Gosling Did in 2013 list. BuzzFeed put it pretty much perfectly by saying, 'A recap of everything

Ryan Gosling did in 2013 that could be considered sexy. Also jizzworthy! We'd definitely agree! So if you're a fan of the Drive and Notebook star, then you *must* check out this list. It's Ryan Gosling, for God's sake! [bzfd.it/1qC3N8](http://bzfd.it/1qC3N8)



# PRIDE IN SPORT

Join the  
Movement

Birmingham hosts a range of LGBT  
inclusive sports & fitness activities  
including Swimming, Rugby,  
Football, Table Tennis, Yoga,  
Pilates, Badminton, Water Polo,  
Cycling, Walking, Dance, Rock  
Climbing and Running....

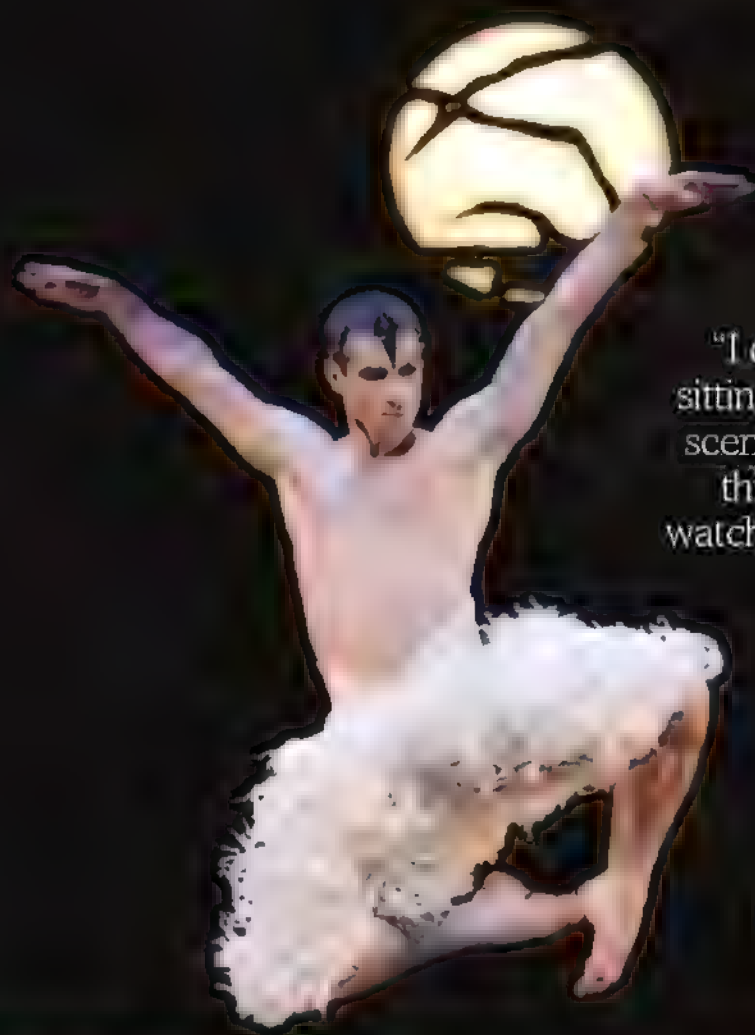
Get 'Pride In Sport' leaflet in local  
community venues or check out the  
website for more details.

[www.prideinsport.org.uk](http://www.prideinsport.org.uk)

Funded by







"I don't want people sitting there during the scenes with the royals thinking that they're watching men in drag!"

# Swanning Around with Matthew Bourne





**Director-choreographer Matthew Bourne first premiered his revelatory *Swan Lake* in 1995, since which time this modern reinterpretation of a ballet-world mainstay has transfixed audiences across the globe. With a new version of *Swan Lake* about to hit the road, Matthew reflects on a show which has become a genuine cultural phenomenon...**

**When *Swan Lake* premiered at London's Sadler's Wells Theatre, did you have any idea it would go on to achieve such success?**

Absolutely not; you couldn't predict anything like that. I just remember in the rehearsal room having to get the thing done. It was a long piece - the longest by far that I'd done up to that point - so it was about working away at just trying to do the best we could do. I wasn't really thinking beyond that.

**Nonetheless, the venture must have prompted speculation in the dance world and beyond?**

It did! There were all sorts of doubts expressed by people outside the room, and I was well aware that there were two prevailing camps. One group was sure that the piece was going to be hilarious and a real send-up: they were the ones who couldn't wait! There were others who kept saying, "You do know it's a tragedy and you're not going to mess around with it, are you?".

**What did you think you had in the rehearsal room itself?**

I remember all of us feeling that we liked the idea, and that we had something we thought could work - but I don't think we were over-confident. It was more about a sense of us working towards the same thing, and simply having a confidence in the fact that we liked the idea of what we were doing.

**Can you recall the actual seedbed for the idea - the moment when the project itself actually took hold?**

The very first idea was the thought of all-male swans. That had come to me watching the ballet long before I ever had a company or any possibility of doing *Swan Lake* at all; it was just a daydream. I remember being intrigued as to what that might do to the plot. It helped, of course - that I'd seen the ballet itself a lot. So I had this memory of Royal Ballet dancer Anthony Dowell as the Prince, wandering around in Act One pretty much saying "No, I will not get married - take her away! I want something else". So I just thought, "Oh there's something going on in this story that's not being told".

**What was that precisely?**

I think it was that feeling of someone who's yearning for something, which seemed to me a metaphor for someone who's possibly gay; or who maybe just wanted a different kind of woman, or something like that. It definitely felt to me like something that was there in the ballet itself and not like anything I'd invented. And if you consider Tchaikovsky's own life, and the turmoil and violence in the music, that also suggested something much deeper than a lot of pretty swans in a row.

**Do you remember a 'click' moment in performance when you sensed a hit on your hands?**

Very much so. The bit, I think, that made the audience go completely quiet was the entrance of Adam Cooper as the Swan. At a sudden, you felt people thinking, "This isn't what we were expecting". It suddenly went very quiet, very serious. And then I remember Cameron Mackintosh, the producer, coming up in the interval and saying that he had to do this in the West End, and I thought, "this is only the interval, but... well, Cameron does know there's something about his instinct". It was once the second half got going and we were into the Ball scene that it all became suddenly electric. Then, when Adam came on in his leather trousers as the Black Swan, the show really caught fire. At the end there was this spontaneous roar - which the piece has received ever since - and that was honestly something I hadn't expected at all.

**It must be infuriating when you hear the work described as 'the all-male *Swan Lake*', since there are women prominently featured in the cast, albeit not as the swans.**

Very much so - and we've had some wonderful women over time, from Fiona Chadwick and Etta Murfit onwards. That misperception you mention is so easy to say, and it makes sense to everyone - but I do have to correct it, obviously. For one thing, I don't want people sitting there during the scenes with the royals thinking that they're watching men in drag!

**I'm glad you reference the royals, who have to be mentioned, given that they were in a very different place in 1995 from where they are now. For one thing, Princess Diana was alive at the time.**

Yes, and she saw it, we believe. It's funny, the royal aspect - is the thing I thought everyone would pick up on, because royal scandal was such a big deal when we opened *Swan Lake*. All that I have to say, was quite inspiring in a way. One felt there was a story going on in real life, as in *Swan Lake*, in which a prince couldn't marry the person he really loved - in Charles' case, Camilla - and so had to marry a suitable young person instead, namely Diana. At that seemed terribly sad if you looked at it from a purely human point of view, so I thought there was a lot of sympathy to be had for a prince who couldn't be what he wanted to be.

**Yes, it's important that the royal aspect of your production isn't viewed merely as facetious, or as a romp.**

I do think the royal family really liked it, and found it very sympathetic - but no one is going to admit to that or say it publicly. I found out from Princess Margaret, when she came to see *Cinderella*, that she had the video and, as I say, we're pretty sure that Diana had been in. What's intriguing too, is that we were asked to do it as part of the Royal Variety performance, apparently as a personal request from the Queen - so they certainly didn't turn against it because of the subject matter.

**How do you think the intervening years have refocused that aspect of the production?**

Well, we have different sorts of royals now. The young princes seem more well-adjusted - or shall we say 'normal' - so I'm not sure we see them in quite the same way as we once looked at Charles. On the other hand, I do think there's still very much a relevance here. There's a lot of protection and grooming that still goes on: I mean, Kate didn't just emerge as a fully formed royal. You still have to be a certain type of person to be part of the royal family, and it's important that our story is set in an uncertain, unspecified time period. It's as much about now as it was about then.

**You went on from *Swan Lake* to devise numerous pieces, from *Edward Scissorhands* to *Play Without Words*, and from *Cinderella* to *Sleeping Beauty*. Does *Swan Lake* occupy a privileged position, simply because of what it represented for you?**

I like to think of all those pieces you mention as children - and, as with any child, you can't pick a favourite. But of course I'm hugely grateful to *Swan Lake* - how could I not be? It changed my life and a lot of people's lives. It took us to Broadway and made us an international company. The fact is, I still love thinking about it and working on it, and I still have a lot to say about it to the dancers. It's amazing to think that in eighteen years we've gone from a company of eight to one of seventy, and that we've done more performances of our *Swan Lake* during those years than the Royal Ballet has done during its entire existence.

**What you're doing, presumably, with your company *New Adventures* is looking forward as well as back...**

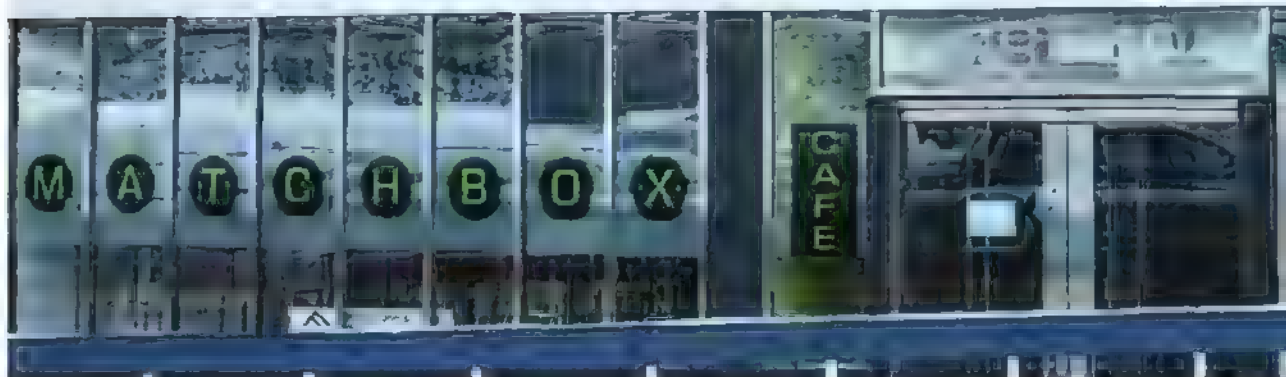
That's exactly right. *Swan Lake* was the trailblazer - so much so that when we cast the show nowadays we find men whose whole ambition as dancers has been about appearing in this piece. By contrast, eighteen years ago it was hard to get a cast of fourteen swans together! Now hundreds come to each audition. But what's most satisfying is that this hasn't been our only successful thing - I wouldn't feel the same about *Swan Lake* if it had been a one-hit wonder. I'm grateful for this show, but also for all the ones that have come since, not least in terms of the public following myself and following the company.



Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* shows at Birmingham Hippodrome from Wednesday 5 to Saturday 15 February.



# The Birmingham LGBT Centre:



The Birmingham LGBT Centre - the first of its kind in England and Wales - opened in January 2013 and offers support to the local LGBT community in numerous ways, from sexual health testing and counselling to fitness classes and wellbeing. The Centre's Health & Wellbeing Manager, David Viney, talks to Midlands Zone about the venue's first twelve months...

**It's been a year since the Birmingham LGBT Centre opened its doors. Are you surprised at how well the past twelve months have gone?**

Yes we didn't know what to expect, really. We didn't know who would come or what the reaction would be. I'll be honest; it's been pretty much universally positive, with members of the community coming down and seeing the space. Lots of people have said that they didn't know what to expect, and were quite surprised at what was here. I think they were expecting something that was done on a shoestring budget, something in a back street. For people to come into a nicely designed and well-kitted out building that's quite functional has been a surprise. That's been a pleasant reaction for us all. There's been a great reaction from other stakeholders too - such as agencies, councils and other parts of the public sector. They think it's a great resource.

**And how about on a national level?**

We've been travelling around the country with work and meeting people. Everyone seems to have heard of it, and they all seem genuinely pleased with what we're doing. They're quite interested in the model we're developing too. Typically, services are all sectioned off, someone will do a bit of sexual health somewhere, someone else will do some community work, and then others will do a bit of this and a bit of that. It never really works together, so what we're doing here, if there's a gap in services, is trying to fill it. If there's existing stuff, such as sport and cultural stuff

we'll try and enable it, and we're working with people who're already doing things for the community. I think people are interested in having the building as a hub, with lots of different activity going on within it.

**From Birmingham LGBT's perspective, has the Centre been the huge success you were hoping for?**

It's been great for the charity's aims. Every consultation over a ten-year period, the majority of respondents would want some kind of building. It was never badged as a health and wellbeing centre, but people wanted some sort of building that would act as a community hub - a place for people to meet, a kind of safe space. People had a desire for a building for a whole range of reasons and purposes. It was always our aspiration that there should be one in Birmingham, not just whether we should develop and deliver it. From the charity's and staff's point of view, it's been great, and very well received.

**So over the past twelve months, what has the Centre offered the local community that it didn't have before?**

There's a focal point in the sense of the space particularly for a lot of the community groups. They were meeting in a variety of different places - some that were appropriate and some that weren't. Some of them were happy to come and use the Centre because it provided a better space than where they were meeting before. What's surprised us is people coming through the door who haven't accessed other

services. They've come here by hearing about it through press releases or word of mouth and they're in real need. That's enabled us to signpost them to other services, such as counselling. Without the Centre, those people would never have accessed the services they required. People who've come through the door who've been disengaged with the community are now more integrated into it. We're developing some services for refugees and asylum-seekers too. There's a sexual health and counselling, which Healthy Gay Life has brought in. There's a wellbeing drop-in for older people, and we've developed cultural activities too. The sports and fitness stuff that we've got going on in The Vault is going really well, and it's something that we're really keen on developing further. There's a range of things that weren't happening before, and now they're all under one roof, it's a great way for people to access them.

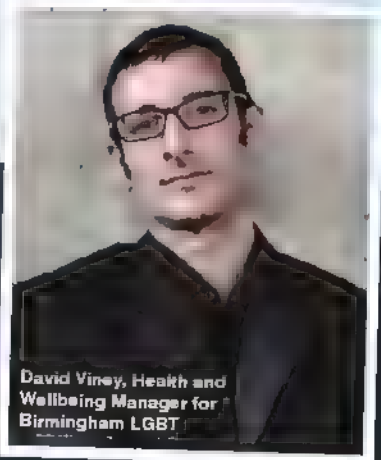
**What's been the most successful aspect of the Centre so far?**

It's an odd thing, but a singer contacted us from America because he thought we were in Birmingham, Alabama. He said that whilst he was in the UK, he'd love to come and do a benefit gig. It was a nice, intimate gig, and a really lovely night. It was great to see someone do something for free whilst he was in the country for the benefit of the Centre. It's not huge, but it's a lovely thing to have happen.

**On Christmas Day, you hosted a party for the LGBT community. Do you think an event like this is important to the community?**

# A successful first twelve months

## Birmingham LGBT Centre



David Viney, Health and Wellbeing Manager for Birmingham LGBT

I think it's very important. The numbers that said they wanted to come proved there was a desire for such an event. We had no idea what to expect. We had more people turn up who'd heard by word of mouth than we had people who'd confirmed their attendance by email. On the day, people turned up and it was a lovely day. Next year, hopefully, it'll grow bigger. There's definitely something to build on.

**The Centre also includes the Matchbox Café. Has it proved to be a popular destination for meetings and lunches?**

I think it has. There are quite a number of older LGBT people who come in and have their lunch there. We host monthly lunch clubs for the older LGBT community, but they like to pop back throughout the rest of the month. The customer base for the café is certainly building, which is great.

**With the addition of The Vault, you host a number of weekly classes aimed at getting the LGBT community more active. Since introducing this space, have you seen a rise in the number of people coming through the door to get fit?**

The yoga classes are going phenomenally well. Pilates is building and we're about to launch table tennis in March. We hosted a couple of taster sessions and they were really well attended, so we've found a couple of volunteers to run a dedicated weekly table tennis club. There are a couple of groups in London too, so we're thinking about the possibility of setting up a league. There's lots of scope to develop what can go on down there - it's exciting.

**Do you find the integration of sexual health testing and counselling a benefit for the**

**Centre and the community?**

I think that having everything in one place is really useful. A social space, coffee shop, sports activities and other one-to-one services, all existing alongside the sexual health testing and counselling means that people can access it all in one go, without having to go to different agencies. It's a great benefit for people. If somebody's sole reason for visiting is for a sexual health checkup, they might then discover something else which they may need to access.

**When the location of the Birmingham LGBT Centre was announced, there were concerns that, because of its visibility within the city, there'd be a rise in the number of homophobic attacks, particularly at night. Have there been any such cases?**

Three people in a year have reported that they've had some homophobic comments in the vicinity of this building. You're going to get that on Hurst Street too, but at a lot higher rate. So actually, I think that people's fears are unfounded. It was the perception of the location that in fact caused concerns - and from our point of view, we think the location is great. It's accessible, open and inviting. People are less likely to cause trouble because, at night, it's a well-lit area and there are always people about.

**Obviously, operating the Centre costs a lot of money, so what's Birmingham LGBT doing to cover the running costs?**

Like most charities, we go to a variety of different funding sources. There's earned income, where we sell training. We apply to trusts and funds - the lottery funding we initially received is for another few years, but we'll consider going back to them when we

need to and applying for an additional grant. There's a variety of different sources we can go to. We also let the spaces within the Centre to commercial groups if they require it.

**If the community want to contribute to the costs of the Centre, how can they help?**

If the community want to help us, they're more than welcome to donate whatever they can afford. It will be greatly appreciated by the staff and volunteers here.

**The LGBT Centre was the first of its kind in England and Wales. Have other areas of the country registered an interest in introducing a similar kind of centre for their own LGBT community?**

Yes, it was the first of its kind, and the model of an 'integrated centre' is quite unique in the UK. You'll have a range of organisations in a city doing different things, but not really linking up. In some way we're trying to work with other partners in the city and develop programmes that make it a great offer for people in the city that they can readily access. We look at reducing risk factors, so drugs and alcohol, mental health, physical activity, substance misuse. We're trying to build community support groups, physical activity and volunteering. When we meet people in other cities, they often question why something like the LGBT Centre hasn't been done where they are - and it's certainly something they're keen to do.

**The Birmingham LGBT Centre is located at 38-40 Holloway Circus, Birmingham. Visit [www.bigbt.org](http://www.bigbt.org) for more information or call 0121 643 0821. You can also follow Birmingham LGBT on Twitter by following @birminghamlgbt.**



## The Top 5 Finalists

After more than 8,000 votes were cast in Part One of the Readers' Awards, we're pleased to announce your top five finalists in each category! Online voting has now re-opened so that you can vote for your winner! Voting will continue right the way through till 27 February. All previous votes will be added to the new votes cast. The winners will be revealed at the Midlands Zone Pride Ball on Friday 28 March at the International Convention Centre. So come on - get voting now at [www.midlandszone.co.uk](http://www.midlandszone.co.uk)

### Best Birmingham Gay Nightclub

Top 5 Finalists

- Bar Jester
- Club Chic
- The Core
- DV8
- The Nightingale

### Best Midlands Gay Nightclub

Top 5 Finalists

- The Factory - Stoke on Trent
- Gorgeous - Wolverhampton
- Helsinki - Leicester
- The Lion - Walsall
- NG1 - Nottingham

### Best Birmingham Gay Bar

Top 5 Finalists

- Eden
- Equator
- Missing
- Sidewalk
- The Village Inn

### Best Midlands Gay Bar

Top 5 Finalists

- Dover Castle - Leicester
- The Lion - Walsall
- Pink - Stoke on Trent
- Rainbows - Coventry
- The White Hart - Wolverhampton

### Best Midlands Community Gay Bar

Top 5 Finalists

- Dover Castle - Leicester
- Eden - Birmingham
- Equator - Birmingham
- Missing - Birmingham
- The Wellington - Birmingham

### Best Midlands Cafe Bar / Restaurant

Top 5 Finalists

- Equator - Birmingham
- The Loft Lounge - Birmingham
- The Peach Tree - Shrewsbury
- Rainbow & Dove - Leicester
- Sidewalk - Birmingham

### Best Midlands Bar/Club for Men

Top 5 Finalists

- Boltz - Birmingham
- Eden - Birmingham
- The Fountain Inn - Birmingham
- Missing - Birmingham
- The Nightingale - Birmingham

### Best Midlands Bar/Club for Women

Top 5 Finalists

- The Factory - Stoke on Trent
- The Fox - Birmingham
- The Nightingale - Birmingham
- Sidewalk - Birmingham
- The Village Inn - Birmingham

### Best Midlands Venue Outdoor Area

Top 5 Finalists

- Eden - Birmingham
- The Fox - Birmingham
- The Lion - Walsall
- The Loft Lounge - Birmingham
- Rainbow & Dove - Leicester

### Best Midlands New Venue / Refurb

Top 5 Finalists

- Bossa - Leicester (Reopening)
- DV8 - Birmingham (Reopening)
- Eden - Birmingham (Refurb)
- LGBT Centre - Birmingham (New)
- Prowler - Birmingham (Refurb)

### Best Midlands venue Front of House Team

Top 5 Finalists

- Eden - Birmingham
- Equator - Birmingham
- The Loft Lounge - Birmingham
- Missing - Birmingham
- The Nightingale - Birmingham

### Best Midlands venue Security Team

Top 5 Finalists

- Eden - Birmingham
- The Factory - Stoke on Trent
- Missing - Birmingham
- The Nightingale - Birmingham
- Sidewalk - Birmingham

### Best OVERALL Birmingham Venue

Top 5 Finalists

- Club Chic
- Eden
- Missing
- The Nightingale
- The Village Inn

### Best OVERALL Midlands Venue

Top 5 Finalists

- Dover Castle - Leicester
- The Factory - Stoke on Trent
- Gorgeous - Wolverhampton
- The Lion - Walsall
- NG1 - Nottingham

### Best Midlands Venue One-Nighter

Top 5 Finalists

- BearBrum
- @ Eden - Birmingham
- The Big Saturday Night Out
- @ The Nightingale - Birmingham
- Lip Gloss
- @ Eden - Birmingham
- So It Goes
- @ Club Chic - Birmingham
- XXL
- @ The Core Club - Birmingham

### Best Midlands Live Entertainment venue

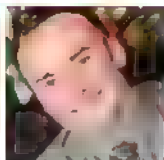
Top 5 Finalists

- Eden - Birmingham
- The Factory - Stoke on Trent
- The Nightingale - Birmingham
- The Village Inn - Birmingham
- The White Hart - Wolverhampton

### Scene Personality of the Year



■ Garry Prentice



■ Lawrence Barton



■ Marc Richardson

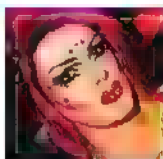


■ Steph Keeble

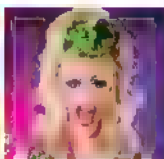


■ Tilly

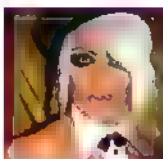
### Best Compere/Host in the Midlands



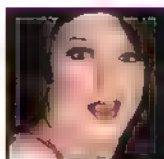
■ Charlotte the Harlot



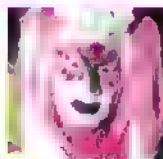
■ Divina De Campo



■ Marty Smith



■ Miss Penny



■ Twigg

### DON'T FORGET!

You can still nominate your favourite people for

- Youth Achievement
- Outstanding Contribution
- Lifetime Achievement

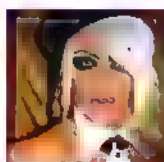
# Awards 2014

VOTE ONLINE AT  
**midlandszone.co.uk**  
 VOTING CLOSES  
**THURS 27 FEB 2014**

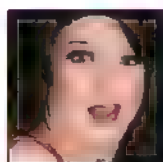
## Best Cabaret Act in the Midlands



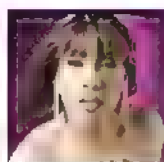
■ Glitter Lips



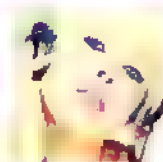
■ Marty Smith



■ Miss Penny



■ Sandra

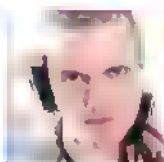


■ Vicky Jackson

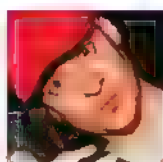
## Best Midlands Bar DJ



■ Dan Williams  
Eden



■ Deano Trickett  
The Village Inn



■ DJ Mykee  
Missing

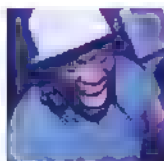


■ Richard Moon  
The Village Inn



■ Rob Lambeth  
Dover Castle

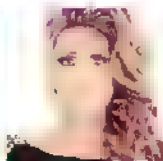
## Best Midlands Club DJ



■ Clinton Shawe  
Club Chic



■ Corey Hadley  
The Nightingale



■ Destiny Dyson  
The Factory

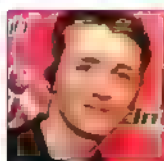


■ Rob Lambeth  
Helsinki



■ Simon Baker  
The Nightingale

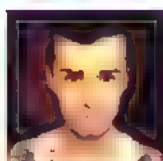
## Best Front of House Person



■ David Morris  
The Nightingale



■ Garry Prentice  
Eden



■ Max Baker  
The Factory

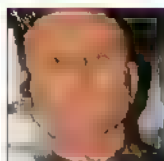


■ Ollie Betts  
Missing



■ Tom Jenkins  
The Nightingale

## Best Security Person



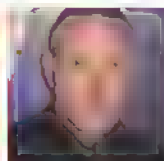
■ Mark Smith  
Sidewalk



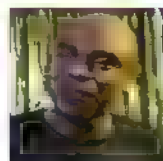
■ Sam Owen  
The Factory



■ Kelvin Bates  
The Nightingale



■ Stuart Roberts  
Eden



■ Wayne Millwood  
The White Hart

## Best Midlands Pride Event

Top 5 Finalists

- Birmingham Pride
- Leicester Pride
- Nottingham Pride
- Stoke Pride
- Wolverhampton Pride

## Best Midlands LGBT Event

Top 5 Finalists

- L Fest
- Pink Picnic Birmingham
- Pride in Sport
- Rainbow Film Festival
- SHOUT Festival

## Best LGBT Charity or Group of Achievement

Top 5 Finalists

- AB+
- Birmingham LGBT
- Freshwinds
- Healthy Gay Life
- LGBT Network Wolverhampton

## Best LGBT Sport or Social Group

Top 5 Finalists

- Acting Out
- Birmingham Blaze FC
- Birmingham Bulls RFC
- Leicester Wildcats
- Rainbow Voices

## Best Midlands Health Club / Sauna

Top 5 Finalists

- CS2 - Nottingham
- The Greenhouse - Darlaston
- Heroes - Stourbridge
- Spartan - Birmingham
- Unit 2 - Birmingham

## Best LGBT-Friendly Online or Retail Store

Top 5 Finalists

- Clone Zone - Birmingham
- Harvey Nichols - Birmingham
- Prowler - Birmingham
- Selfridges - Birmingham
- Tesco Extra (Hurst St) - Bham



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VOTE ONLINE AT: **www.midlandszone.co.uk**



# Give the perfect gift for Valentine's Day...



With Valentine's Day upon us, here's a great selection of gift ideas for your other half. From novelty items and underwear to jewellery and days out...

**01 Links of London Black Rope Friendship Bracelet**  
Stand out in style with this chunky Men's Friendship Bracelet. With a unique combination of textured binding and solid sterling silver, this bracelet makes a strong statement.  
£156 [www.linksollondon.com](http://www.linksollondon.com)  
**02 Homo Sweet Homo Cross-Stitch Kit**  
Take the novel approach this

Valentine's Day with the Homo Sweet Homo Cross-Stitch Kit. Get your loved one to create this work of art and hang it on your living room wall for all to see.  
£20 [www.firebox.com](http://www.firebox.com)  
**03 Diesel Men's All-Black Franchise Watch**  
Make a statement on your wrist with this Diesel men's oversized bracelet watch in black, with large chronograph dial and featured numbers.

**04 Romantio Hot-Air Balloon Ride**  
To be truly romantic on Valentine's Day, take your loved one on a hot-air balloon ride.  
£289 [www.virginballoonflights.co.uk](http://www.virginballoonflights.co.uk)  
**05 Titanium and Diamond Engagement Ring**  
With same-sex marriages just around the corner, why not

pop the question? This diamond and titanium engagement ring does the job perfectly!  
£110 [www.hsamuse.co.uk](http://www.hsamuse.co.uk)  
**06 Andrew Christian CoolFiex Spectrum Boxer**  
There's no prezzie more welcome than new underwear, so give the gift of this vibrant boxer.  
£24 [andrewchristian.com](http://andrewchristian.com)

# Cook up a treat for your loved one!

If you're planning a romantic night in for you and your other half this Valentine's Day, then here's a great three-course menu for you both to enjoy. Devised by Chris Burt, Executive Head Chef at The Peach Tree in Shrewsbury, these dishes will get your mouth watering - but it's up to you if you want to skip dessert!



**START: Southern Fried Crayfish Popcorn**

## Southern Fried Crayfish Popcorn

with beetroot powder, samphire and lemon

### Ingredients

170g Crayfish in Brine  
50g Beetroot Powder  
1 grated Garlic Clove  
175ml Mayonnaise  
150g fresh Samphire  
1 Lemon  
Olive Oil  
2 Egg Yolks  
Plain Flour  
Sea Salt and Black Pepper

### Method

Create the aioli in a clean, stainless-steel bowl by mixing the beetroot powder, garlic and mayonnaise together, ensuring that it's lump-free. Rinse the brine off the crayfish and pat dry.

Cut the lemon, keeping half back. Mix together the lemon juice and olive oil into a light vinaigrette with the samphire and put aside.

Toss the crayfish in the two beaten egg yolks and dust with the plain flour.

Fry in a deep fat fryer for two minutes at 175 degrees celsius, then remove and season with salt and pepper.

Smear the inside of a large glass bowl with the aioli, adding the samphire salad to the bottom. Place the crayfish on top and serve with the other half of the lemon for squeezing.

## Basil Butter Poaching Wild Salmon

with a Brazil nut pesto crust served with winter greens, baby gem and a mini salad

### Ingredients

250g Wild Salmon Boneless Steak (skin on)  
100g Brazil Nuts  
3 bunches of fresh Basil  
100g grated Parmesan  
1 Garlic Clove  
1 Lemon (zested)



**MAIN: Basil Butter Poached Wild Salmon**

2 cups of Olive Oil  
250g assorted Winter Greens  
5 halved New Potatoes  
2 Carrots  
2 Parsnips  
2 Beetroots  
1 head of Baby Gem Lettuce  
10g Anchovies  
1 slice of plain white bread  
250g unsalted Butter  
Salt and Pepper  
1 sprig of Rosemary

### Method

Par-boil the new potatoes until tender, then refresh in cold water.

To make the pesto, put the Brazil nuts, garlic, lemon, half of the parmesan, two bunches of basil and olive oil into a food processor and emulsify.

Cut the carrots, parsnips and beetroot, then put onto an oven-proof tray with olive oil, garlic, salt and pepper and a sprig of rosemary. Cook in the oven until tender.

Melt the butter in a pan on the stove. Once done, season your salmon, then place in the butter and remove it off the heat. Smooth the pesto onto the skin side of the salmon and place in the oven at 180 degrees celsius for seven minutes.

To make the Caesar salad, place the anchovies, 50g parmesan, 100g mayonnaise, salt and pepper into a food processor and blend for about 30 seconds to a minute. Pick the leaves of the baby gem and wash them. Make croutons out of the bread by cutting it into cubes and roasting it with olive oil and salt and pepper. To finish the salad, add the baby gem, croutons and parmesan, and dress with the mayonnaise.

Place the halved new potatoes in a really hot pan with a touch of oil, until they're golden brown.

For the winter greens, make sure they're all washed well, then place into boiling, salted water until tender. Drain, then toss in a pan of seasoned butter.



**DESSERT: Rhubarb & Tangerine Eton Mess**

## Rhubarb and Tangerine Eton Mess

with meringue nests, raspberries and almonds

### Ingredients

3 Meringue Nests  
1 stick of Rhubarb cut into two inch pieces  
2 Tangerines  
300g Sugar  
200ml Cream  
1 punnet of Raspberries  
100g Almonds  
100g Unsalted Butter  
1 Egg  
200g Plain Flour

### Method

Melt 100g of sugar in a pan on the stove. Once it's all melted, place onto greaseproof paper and add the almonds. Leave aside to set.

Place 100g of sugar in a pan with 100ml water and bring to the boil. Add the rhubarb and cook until tender, then remove from the liquid.

Place the raspberries on a tray and leave in the oven on 60 degrees celsius overnight. When dehydrated, blitz in a food processor.

Peel the tangerines and slice into segments.

Whisk the cream with 100g of sugar until hard peaks form.

To make the Eton Mess, break up the meringue nests, add into the cream, then add the rhubarb and tangerines, gently folding them in.

To make the cookies, in a mixer, add the flour, egg and 100g sugar, then break up the almonds and sugar. Mix slowly until the mix leaves a clean bowl.

Roll the cookie dough into a sausage shape, then slice 1/2cm thick. Place onto a heatproof mat on a tray, then cook for eight minutes at 180 degrees celsius.

To serve, place the cream mix into a glass, then sprinkle the raspberry crumb on top. Serve the cookies on the side.





It's all black & white!



**Black is tipped to be the hot new fashion trend this Spring! Here's a selection of our favourite items from some of the UK's biggest High Street fashion retailers...**

**01 Monochrome Stripe Long-Sleeve Shirt**

Stripes are a big look for the season, but why not try something different - this black shirt with two chunky stripes detail. for example! £30 [www.topman.com](http://www.topman.com)

**02 Sleek Monotone Strap Watch**

A watch with a round dial and metal case with dashes indexes, an adjustable crown stem and a sleek strap with a

pin buckle fastening and twin keepers.

£25 [www.asos.com](http://www.asos.com)

**03 Star & Stripe Jumper**

Break away from the traditional look with this black and white jumper complete with stars and stripes detail.

£32 [www.topman.com](http://www.topman.com)

**04 Black Round Frame Sunglasses**

Finish off casual looks this Spring with these classic

round-frame sunglasses.

£5.99 [www.newlook.com](http://www.newlook.com)

**05 Black Two-Tone Crew Neck T-Shirt**

Make your staple pieces pop with this black and white two-tone t-shirt. Featuring a crew neck and short sleeves

£8 [www.riverisland.com](http://www.riverisland.com)

**06 Black Distressed Lace Up Military Boots**

A style essential, every winter these distressed black military

boots are an investment piece with staying power. Featuring lace-up fastening and chunky sole.

£70 [www.riverisland.com](http://www.riverisland.com)

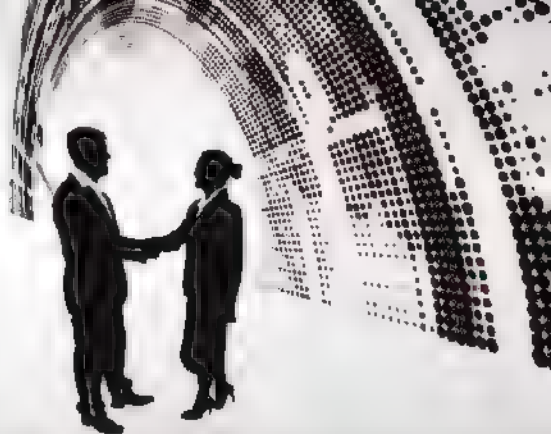
**07 Black Mesh Knee Skinny Joggers**

Black jersey joggers with black mesh knee patches and contrasting white fabric behind to give a sporty streetwear look

£32 [www.topman.com](http://www.topman.com)



**LEICESTER LGBT**  
PROFESSIONAL NETWORK



# NETWORKING LAUNCH EVENT

AT THE LGBT CENTRE, 15 WELLINGTON ST, LEICS, LE1 6HH

A CHANCE TO MEET LGBT  
PROFESSIONALS IN LEICESTER

ENTERTAINMENT AND BUSINESS  
FOR ALL

THE LGBT CENTRE  
15 WELLINGTON ST, LEICS, LE1 6HH

THE LGBT CENTRE  
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## TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014

STARTS AT 6:30PM

SPONSORED BY

**the CENTRE**  
LESBIAN GAY BI & TRANS

FOR MORE INFO E-MAIL  
[davidfarr1987@gmail.com](mailto:davidfarr1987@gmail.com)

Tel: 0116 254 7412







01



02

## LOVE Your Home!

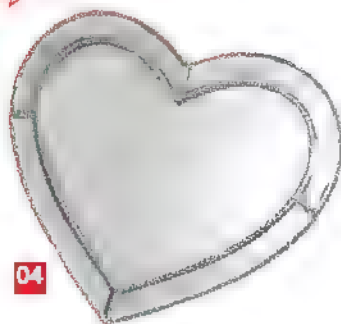
Check out our selection of furniture and accessories.



03



05



04



06

**01 Love Hearts Cushion**  
Part of the new Hearts & Roses Collection. Printed on both front and reverse, these luxurious feather-filled cushions are soft to the touch. The cushions are 43cm x 43cm, supplied complete with a sumptuous feather pad which fully complements the beautiful fabric.

£30 [www.digetathome.co.uk](http://www.digetathome.co.uk)

**02 Love Sofa**  
The Love Sofa is an inviting

hideaway from the Summer breeze and sunshine rays. Relax under the canopy and enjoy your garden in contemporary style. The canopy can be secured in a number of different positions.

£399 [www.livingitup.co.uk](http://www.livingitup.co.uk)  
**03 Valentine bed by Matthew Hilton**  
The Valentine bed is made with a solid oak base and veneered oak headboard. The signature design feature of the Valentine

range by Matthew Hilton is the gently tapered leg that points purposefully outwards. This gives the range a unity and also lends visual balance to each piece. The restrained sophistication of this range means it's something to appreciate aesthetically but also to live with and use.

£1,199 [www.casefurniture.co.uk](http://www.casefurniture.co.uk)

**04 Cagliari Mirror**  
This delightful, silver clear glass Venetian Love Heart

mirror has etched flower detail pattern to the frame, with silver sectioned beaded edges. A clean, fresh design, this mirror is a must-have, to bring glamour to your boudoir space!

£97 [www.chandeliersandmirrors.co.uk](http://www.chandeliersandmirrors.co.uk)

**05 Heart Coasters**  
Functional and beautifully crafted, these heart-shaped slate coasters provide a resilient surface for a classic

slate tableware drinks accessory.

£22 [www.justslate.co.uk](http://www.justslate.co.uk)

**06 Gisela Graham Love Frame**  
This clever frame incorporates the word 'love' into its design. Perfect for Mother's Day and Valentine's Day.

£13 [www.tch.net](http://www.tch.net)

# { SHREWSBURY & } ICONIC GEM

the perfect setting for your celebration



THE BUTTERMARTET SHREWSBURY



LGBT Weddings  
available from  
29 March 2014  
We are licensed to host  
your ceremony and can  
also take care of your  
reception too.

THE BUTTERMARTET  
SHREWSBURY



WIN!



## WIN! Three pairs of hot Andrew Christian boxers!

We've teamed up with Andrew Christian, one of the hottest men's underwear designers on the planet, to give away three pairs of pants!

The Coo Flex Spectrum Boxer is a brand new design. Its multi-coloured waistband features the Andrew Christian logo on the front left.

This soft and flexible Sports Underwear features Support Technology consisting of a hidden 'comfy cup'. The horseshoe-shaped inner cup is lined by soft elastic that gently cushions and supporting. CooFlex is made from a super-soft modal fabric which is perfect

for sports and working out, as it's up to 50% more absorbent than cotton. Modal also resists shrinking and fading.

The underwear features Andrew Christian's 'Anti-Muffin Top' elastic, to slim the appearance of love handles. It also features contrasting stitching along the bottom of the leg.

Simply answer this question to be in with a chance of winning a pair

**What shape is the hidden 'comfy cup' in these boxers?**

- A) Circular
- B) Square
- C) Horseshoe

Enter this great competition online at [www.midlandszone.co.uk](http://www.midlandszone.co.uk) before Tuesday 25 February 2014.

# UNIQUE

diversity rules

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FRIENDSHIP  
CONFIDENCE  
TALK ABOUT WHAT  
MATTERS TO YOU**

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UniqueLGBTQ



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WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

# SCENE

FEBRUARY 2014

## Traffic Light Parties

VALENTINE'S FUN IN BIRMINGHAM GAY VENUES

**INSIDE...**

**XOL: BIG, BOLD FUN IN BRUM**

The UK's biggest men-only night heads to Birmingham's Core Club this month

**NICKI FRENCH**

The Eurovision star hits the Midlands for a fundraising Valentine's Ball

**BLACK & GOLD PARTY**

Cult: The filthy house club night throws a Black & Gold special in Birmingham



4 BOTTLED BEERS OR 4 ALCOPOPS OR 3 BOTTLED CIDERS FOR JUST £10 UNTIL 2AM  
4 JÄGERBOMBS FOR £10 // HAPPY HOUR UNTIL 2AM

# Bar Jester

**MONDAY  
MADNESS**  
HOSTED BY DJ MATT

**Time Up  
tuesday**  
DJ MATT

DJ CRAIG  
**WICKY  
WEDNESDAYS**  
HOSTED BY HILLIE JAMES

**party pop**  
Fun & Games  
DJ MATT  
DJ MARCUS & BABY DOLL  
OPEN 'TIL 6AM

**Retro**  
DJ MATT  
OPEN 'TIL 6AM

**#Just saying**  
DJ MATT  
OPEN 'TIL 6AM

**SUNDAY  
Funday**  
BABY'S ON THE DECKS  
DJ MATT

SUN/MON/TUES/WED  
10PM 'TIL 4AM  
THU/FRI/SAT  
9PM 'TIL 6AM

BAR JESTER, 42 HOLLOWAY CHURCH LANE, SOUTH BRIMINGHAM, B37 7ES  
0121 643 8344 - [BARJESTER.CO.UK](http://BARJESTER.CO.UK) - [FACEBOOK.COM/BARJESTERSBIRMINGHAM](http://FACEBOOK.COM/BARJESTERSBIRMINGHAM)  
DESIGN: 87BANKS - 0121 414 1200

## Drag duo Glitter Lips return to Shrewsbury's C:21

Popular Shrewsbury bar and club C:21 is set to host the much-anticipated return of the award-winning drag duo Glitter Lips this month. The Birmingham-based act will be appearing at the popular Monday gay night on 3 February, presenting new material as well as their popular and classic hits! There are great drinks offers available too, starting from £1, all night long! C:21 - Shrewsbury



### WEST MIDLANDS

#### 2-FOR-1 COCKTAILS ANYONE?

If you've had a hellish day in the office, then chill out, relax and unwind with your mates and a cocktail at Birmingham's award-winning Loft Lounge. They're two-for-one all day and night - the perfect excuse to make a night of it!

The Loft Lounge - Birmingham

#### 2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS

Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

#### DJ MIKE EMERY WILL GET YOU DANCING

Monday evenings at Brum's Missing Bar see a great selection of £1 drinks available all night - from spirits to shots, and from bottles to bombs. DJ Mike Emery will be on hand to get you in the mood with some great tunes!

Missing - Birmingham

**MINISTRY OF POUND** - with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm. Selected drinks £1. Open until 2am. Missing Bar

#### THERE'S MONDAY MADNESS TO BE HAD

Monday isn't a typical night to go out clubbing, but don't let that stop you! Join DJ Matt at Birmingham's Bar Jester for a night of great music and amazing happy-hour offers!

Bar Jester - Birmingham

**MONDAY MADNESS** - Weekly drink offers with DJ Matt. Bar Jester

**NEW WINTER MENU** - 12 midday-9pm. Check out their new winter meal deals. The Loft Lounge

**PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT** - with Mrs Mills and DJ Craig. Cash prizes and free drinks. The Village Inn

#### GET POUNDED EVERY MONDAY!

There are plenty of reasons to go out and about in Birmingham's gay village on a Monday night - one of which is Pounded at Sidewalk! Selected drinks are just £1 all night - and it's not the cheap stuff either, it's all branded spirits! We'll see you at the bar!

Sidewalk, Birmingham

**POUNDED** - Bringing back the Pink Pounder. Selected drinks from £1 (branded spirits). Sidewalk

**SUGAR RUSH** - £2 entry drinks from £2 various DJs. Nightingale Club

**OUTSKIRTS** 1st & 3rd Monday monthly. Equator Bar

### WEST MIDLANDS

**FABULOUS** - Mon 3 Feb - Glitter Lips. Drinks from just £1 C:21, Shrewsbury

**POP NOODLED** - 7pm till 4am. Downstairs with DJ Destiny and upstairs with DJ Bruce. Free candy and £1.50 drinks until midnight. Free admission before 11pm. The Factory, Stoke on Trent

**CHILLAX** - with Free Poo and cheap drinks. The White Hart Wolverhampton

**CHILL NIGHT** - with Karaoke. Three Fountains, Telford

**THE MONDAY CLUB** - 9pm-5am. Sit down or stand. Everything's £2. Shirts £1 with DJ Lee Edward. Gorgeous. Wolves

**STUDENT NIGHT** - Free admission on all drinks £1.50 before midnight. Pink Stoke on Trent

### EAST MIDLANDS

**2 TILL 2** - Open from 2am till 2am for a quiet drink in a friendly atmosphere. The Boston Northampton

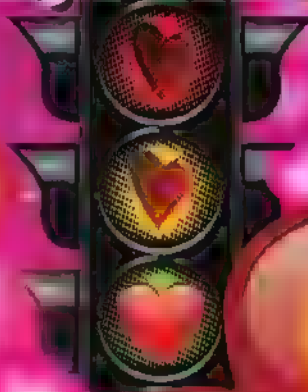
**COCKTAIL NATION & DAVE'S DEALS** - £1.50 cocktails. Karaoke from 8pm. Rainbow & Dove, Leicester

# SIDEWALK

BAR & RESTAURANT

## Traffic Light Party

Friday, 14th February



DJ, Free Entry,

5 Love Bombs For £10,

Traffic Light Pint For £3.00

Dress code:

Green: Single/available

Orange: Complicated Red: Taken

**£2.75**  
ALL DAY EVERYDAY PRICES!

<p><b>£2.50</b></p>	<p><b>£2.00</b></p>	<p><b>£2.50</b></p>
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**£3.50**  
ALL FLAVOURS  
& BROTHERS  
SIDWALK



# TUESDAY | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 FEBRUARY

## BIRMINGHAM

### 2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS

Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge



### IT'S 'GAME ON' AT SIDEWALK BAR!

If you fancy yourself as a bit of a gaming addict, then be sure to head down to Birmingham's award-winning Sidewalk bar every Tuesday for a night of Xbox gaming. There are tournaments with great prizes! Sidewalk - Birmingham

### GAMER NIGHT

Show your skills on Xbox Tournaments, prizes for the winners. Sidewalk

**MIS-SING KARAOKE** - With your host, James. Party starts at 9pm till late. Missing Bar

**NEW WINTER MENU** - 12

### SING A SONG OR TWO IN BRUM...

If you're stuck for things to do on a Tuesday evening, why not head down to Missing in Birmingham. Here, you'll find a night of karaoke from 9pm till late. Your host for the evening will be DJ James!

Missing - Birmingham

midday-9pm. Check out their new winter meal deals. The Loft Lounge

**TACKY TUESDAYS** - with Charlotte and Miss Penny. Play Your Cards Right & Bingo with cash jackpots. The Village Inn

### TUNE UP TUESDAYS!

Head down to Brum's Bar Jester for a night out with Baby Doll, cheap drinks and great music! Go on, live a little! Bar Jester - Birmingham

**TUNE UP TUESDAY** - with Baby Doll. Happy Hour until 2am. Open 10pm-6am. Bar Jester

## WEST MIDLANDS

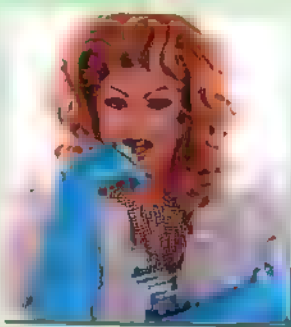
**CAMP QUIZ** - With free buffet. Quiz starts 8.30pm. Three

## Tuesdays get tacky with Charlotte - and Penny!

There's a new face joining the Tacky Tuesday line-up at Birmingham's Village Inn! Every Tuesday, join Charlotte the Harlot and... drum roll please... Miss Penny(!) for a night of fun, games, drunken debauchery and much, much more!

There are some great prizes to be won too, from free drinks behind the bar to free entry to The Nightingale. There really is something for everyone!

The Village Inn - Birmingham



Furnaces, Telford

**DIVERSITY** - Weekly gay friendly night with DJ playing everything from pop & hip hop to indie, velvet Worcester

**FLAUNT** - A twist of awesome tunes to suit everyone. Brewery Tap, Worcester

**SAMMIE'S SINGERS** - Karaoke 9pm-2am and a carry over to £3.95. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

**STUDENT NIGHT** - 10pm-12am

Join Scott for Wasals biggest Tuesday night party. The Lion Bar & Club, Wasals

## EAST MIDLANDS

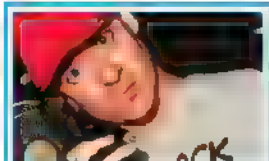
**2 TILL 2** - Open from 2pm till 2am for a quiet drink in a friendly atmosphere. The Boston, Northampton

**GAMES NIGHT** - Free Pool and Nintendo Wii, with a selection of games from 8pm. Dover Castle, Leicester

# WEDNESDAY | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 FEBRUARY

### 2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS

Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge



### WEDNESDAYS ARE JUST 2 GOOD 2 MISS!

Happy hump day! You're halfway through the week, so why not reward yourself with a night of cheap drinks, great music and a fantastic atmosphere? Pop down and join DJ Mykee, who'll be playing the soundtrack to your night!

Missing - Birmingham

**2 GOOD 2 MISS** - Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mykee. Missing Bar

**KARAOKE** - with Charlotte the Harlot and DJ Deano. The Village Inn

**NEW WINTER MENU** - 12 midday-9pm. Check out their new winter meal deals. The Loft Lounge

### GET A DATE IN TIME FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day takes place this month - and for those of you who're single, it's often the worst time of year! Well, fret ye not, as the folks at Eden Bar in Birmingham are hosting a night of Speed Dating, meaning you might meet a suitable partner in time for the big day!

Eden - Birmingham

### SPEED DATING NIGHT

Wed 12 Feb - Find a date just in time for Valentine's Day with speed dating! Eden Bar

**WACKY WEDNESDAYS** - Hosted by Hallie James with DJ Craig. Bar Jester

**FIERCE & FABULOUS** - Fri 7 Feb - Gay comedy extravaganza Co-hosted by Dana Alexander and Jonathan Mayor. The Glee Club

**WEDDING WATERS** - Free Pool. Open 7-11pm. The Fox

**WEDNESDAY LINE** - Line Dancing every Wed night. The Warehouse

## WEDNESDAYS ARE JUST 2 GOOD 2 MISS!

With karaoke being one of Britain's favourite pastimes, it's no wonder Wednesday nights at The Village Inn are a blast! Join the lovely Charlotte the Harlot and mix-master DJ Deano for a night of entertainment and karaoke. Whether you're good, bad or great, give it a go - and all in the name of entertaining the crowd! We've nearly perfected our rendition of Wrecking Ball by Miley Cyrus, so we might see you soon!

The Village Inn - Birmingham



**LIMELIGHT KARAOKE** - and Play Your Cards Right with DJ Jags & Gabe Fierce. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

**KARAOKE** - with Danny 9pm-11pm. £2 drinks from 8pm till 11pm. Free Entry. The Boston, Northampton

**OUT** - Everyone's Out! Free entry to students. £1 drinks until 5pm. NG1 Nottingham

**MISS PENNY** - Join Miss Penny and the DC team for a night of fun and games from 9pm. Dover Castle, Leicester

**STUDENT CLUB NIGHT** - Live DJs, drinks promotions. Free before 10pm. £4 after. Three Furnaces, Telford

**VANILLA** - £1 drinks. Free admission. Queen of Clubs, Nottingham

EVERY MONDAY

*Fabulous*

**THE BIGGEST GAY  
MONDAY NIGHT  
IN THE MIDLANDS!**

FREE ENTRY  
B4 11PM

DRINKS FROM £1  
9PM-3AM!

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GLITTER  
LIPS

MON 3 MARCH  
LIVE CABARET!  
VICKY JACKSON  
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**Eden**  
FEBRUARY

**SUN 2nd**  
It's here!

The Grand Finale £300

**SINGSTAR**  
**SUPERSTAR**

Arrive early for a talent packed night

**FRI 7th**

**Lip Gloss 2nd Birthday**  
Come and join the Lip Gloss Girls  
for what promises to be a fantastic night  
**Stripper Stallion - Hostess Tricia**

**SAT 8th**

**FREE FOOD - DJ YOGI**  
**BEAR BRUM**  
In Eden Marquee  
For Bears and their followers

**WED 12th Speed Dating**

In the Eden Marquee - Registration Required  
Visit [MySpeedDating.co.uk](http://MySpeedDating.co.uk) for more details

**FRI 14th "Love This"**

**Valentines Ball - Charity Fund Raiser**  
with Special Guest **Nicki French**  
Celebrating the music of Stock, Aitkin & Waterman  
In the Marquee - Tickets only £12.50  
Links to purchase on Facebook and  
[www.theedenbar.co.uk](http://www.theedenbar.co.uk)

**FRI 21st**

Monthly Meet @Eden Marquee

**MEN ONLY**  
**Bears & Admirers**  
Special Promo Drink  
Prices in Marquee  
Great Pub  
Atmosphere  
**NO CLUB**  
**CHARGES**

**THURS**  
Back 2 90s  
DJ Dan

**FRI & SUN**  
Disco & Karaoke  
DJ NIKKI

**DJ Dan - Chart Hits SAT**  
Back 2 80s from 2am  
from 2am until 4am crazy drink prices  
[www.theedenbar.co.uk](http://www.theedenbar.co.uk)

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**THURSDAY**

5 | 13 | 20 | 27  
FEBRUARY

**Drop the Bomb every**  
**Thursday at Sidewalk**

If you're looking for a cheap evening out on a Thursday night, then look no further than Birmingham's Sidewalk bar. Sidewalk's the venue of choice for hundreds of LGBT students on a Thursday night, thanks to its crazy Drop The Bomb promotion. If you're a fan of Jagerbombs, Skittlebombs, Glitterbombs or any other bomb, then pop in - they're only £1.50 all night! There are great tunes from DJ Kam too, making for a top atmosphere!

Sidewalk - Birmingham



**BIRMINGHAM**

**1 FOR 1 COCKTAILS**

Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

**BACK TO THE 90S** - with DJ Dan. Open from 6pm. Eden Bar

**BOMBZAI** - £1.20 Bombs - 10 to choose from. Selected drinks from £1.50. DJ Mykee taking you through to the early hours. Missing Bar

**DJ DEANO** - On the decks. Happy Hour midnight - 2am. The Village Inn

**DROP THE BOMB** - With DJ Kam. Bombs from £1.50.

**WEST MIDLANDS**

**MARTY GOES MAD AT THE VILLAGE INN**

New for Thursday nights at The Village Inn in Birmingham is Marty's Madhouse. Join Marty for a night of fun, games, cabaret - and cheap drinks until 2am, thanks to Happy Hour! Hurray!

The Village Inn - Birmingham

**MARTY'S MADHOUSE** - Songs, Games and Happy Hour until 2am. The Village Inn

**NEW WINTER MENU** - 12 midday-9pm. Check out their new winter meal deals. The Loft Lounge

**PARTY POP** - Poptastic tuneage with Baby Doll and DJ Marcus. Bar Jester

**'90S MAGIC ON OFFER AT EDEN BAR!**

If you're looking for something to do on a Thursday night, pop down to Birmingham's Eden Bar and join DJ Dan for a night of music plucked from the 1990s. Think classic dance tunes that're some of the best floorfillers ever created!

Eden - Birmingham

**POUNDED** - £5 entry. Drinks from a £1. DJ Corey playing chart, dance and urban on Ground Floor, Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese you could ask for on the middle floor. Drinks from £1. Nightingale Club

**VALENTINES DAY MEAL** - Thurs Fri Sat 13 14 15 Feb - 2 Courses £19.95, 3 Courses £4.95, both menus includes a glass of Prosecco each. The Loft Lounge

**GIRL THING** - Open 7-late. Drinks from £1. The Fox

**WEST MIDLANDS**

**TASTE THE RAINBOW** - with DJ Skittie. Karaoke and drinks from £1. 7pm - Late Free admission all night. The Factory, Stoke on Trent

**BORN THIS WAY** - Thurs 13 Feb - Party Night with Vicky Jackson as Lady Gaga & Pink. Cheshire Abbey, Briley, Warrington. Tel: 02476 450450

**CAMPLAND V CLUBLAND** - with D Scooter & Mikey through to 3am. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

**CLUB KARAOKE** - with DJ Zac. The Lion, Walsal

**GET OUT** - with DJ Tejay. The Bel, Stourbridge

**KARAOKE NIGHT** - Free admission, hosted by Foxy. Divine. Pink. Stoke on Trent

**POP 69!** 9pm-5am. Drinks from £6. 6pm-12am. 2am-5am £1. With DJ Scottie B. Josh J & Ayden C. Gloucestershire, W. Warrington

**EAST MIDLANDS**

**2 TILL 2** - Open from 2pm-12am for a quiet drink in a friendly atmosphere. The Bos on Northampton

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**2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS**  
Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

**BIG GAY FRIDAY** - Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours. Missing Bar

**DISCO & KARAOKE** - with DJ Nikki. Eden Bar

**FREAKY FRIDAY** - with DJ Lotty. Big name cabaret at mid-night. 4am bar. Fri 7 Feb - Glitter Lips. Fri 14 Feb - Kelly Wilde. Fri 21 Feb - Lady Imelda. Fri 28 Feb - Sandra. The Village Inn

**FRIDAY FRENZY** - R&B and floor fillers until 4am. Sidewalk

**INFUSION** - Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with DJ Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission on £2. Nightingale Club

**KICK START** - Kick start the weekend from 9pm till the early hours. Hosted by James. Missing Bar



## GET YOUR LIP GLOSS ON AT EDEN

The first Friday of every month (Fri 7 Feb) sees Lip Gloss take place at Birmingham's Eden Bar. The event celebrates all things trans\* and welcomes along their admirers and friends. It's just £2 admission and runs from 9pm till 2am!

**LIP GLOSS** - Fri 7 Feb - 2nd Birthday Party with host Trisha. Every first Friday of the month. A night for the Trans community (friends welcome). 9pm-2am £3 admission. Plus Stripper Station. Eden Bar

**LOVE THIS - VALENTINES BALL** - Fri 14 Feb - One off event in the marquee celebrating the music of Stock Aitken and Waterman. Plus special guest star Nicki French. Tickets £12.50. All proceeds to charity. Eden Bar

**NEW WINTER MENU** - 12 midday-9pm. Check out their new winter meal deals. The Loft Lounge

**RETRO FRIDAY** - Retro tunes with DJ Matt. Bar Jester

**SING STAR SUPERSTAR** - with DJ Nikki every Friday - your chance to win cash! Eden Bar

## TRAFFIC LIGHT PARTY IN BIRMINGHAM

If you're looking to find 'The One' on Valentine's Night, then head down to Birmingham's Sidewalk bar for its Traffic Light Party. It's simple - wear green if you're single, orange if your love life's 'complicated', or red if you're taken.

**TRAFFIC LIGHT PARTY** - Fri 7 Feb - Dress Code: Green (Single Available) / Orange (Complicated) / Red (taken) Free admission. Sidewalk

## VALENTINE'S DAY MEALS AT THE LOFT

So... It's Valentine's Day, and you want to treat your other half to something special. In which case, pop down to The Loft Lounge in Birmingham for a fantastic, romantic meal. Two courses for £19.95 or three courses for £24.95. Bargain!

**VALENTINE'S DAY MEAL** - Fri 14 Feb - 2 Courses £19.95, 3 Courses £24.95, both menus includes a glass of Prosecco each. The Loft Lounge

**VINTAGE FRIDAYS** - a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites. The Loft Lounge



If cabaret is your bag, head down to The Village Inn on Hurst Street, Birmingham. It's here you'll find a great selection of the UK's best cabaret talent, live on stage every Friday night! Coming up in February, there's Glitter Lips on Fri 7, Kelly Wilde on Fri 14, Lady Imelda on Fri 21 and, wrapping up the month, Sandra on Fri 28. Join DJ Lotty and the rest of the team for a great night out.

**XXL PRE-BAR** - Fri 21 Feb - Official pre-bar for XXL. Monthly meet up for the Midlands Bears. Eden Bar



## XXL - A CLUB NIGHT FOR BEARS & BEYOND!

The third Friday of every month (Friday 21 February) sees Birmingham's biggest men-only night hit The Core Club. Join DJ Christian M and a lot of Midlands men for a big night out with like-minded people!

**XXL** - Fri 21 Feb - Men only night with DJ Christian M. Every 3rd Friday of each month. The Core Club

**BOLLYWOOD NIGHTS** - Every 1st Friday monthly. Club DV8

**FUNK'D UP** - (alternate Saturdays) Uplifting funky vocal house. 11pm to 6am £5 till 2am £8 after. Club Chic

**KARAOKE** - Come and have a sing to start your weekend. The Fox

**SO IT GOES** - (alternate Saturdays) Club Chic

**URBAN SLAG** - Fri 7 Feb - The West Midlands' biggest and baddest urban gay night. Every first Friday of the month 10pm till late. The Core

**DIVINA DE CAMPO** - (Downstairs) Quiz Night with £20 drinks vouchers to be won, plus Play Your Cards Right with cash prizes. (Upstairs) Dirty Pop with DJ Ibbs & DJ Destiny. 7pm-4am. The Factory, Stoke-on-Trent

**TV PARTY NIGHT** - A Men's Night for TVs, Cross Dressers and Admirers. Every Friday night at The Greenhouse. Darlaston

**BACK TO BACKS** - with DJ Shawn and DJ Dave

8pm-4am. The White Hart Wolverhampton

**CLUB NIGHT** - Drunk promos until 9.45. Free entry before 10pm. The Three Furnaces Telford

**CLUB FRIDAY** - with DJ Zac. The Lion, Walsal

**FRIDAY SOCIAL** - with DJ Paul Griff & guests. The Bel Stourbridge

**SHIRAZ** - 1st Fri monthly. Drinks from £1 until midnight, with resident DJs Gorgeous Club. Wolverhampton

**PARTY NIGHT** - with DJ Laura. All your favourites from the 70's 80's 90's and 00's. Rainbows, Coventry

**START THE WEEKEND** - Free admission before 11pm. Tanya Hyde's cabaret show from 9pm. Pink, Stoke on Trent

**TFI FRIDAY** - A fun and funky mixture of 70s, high energy through to current chart. Brewery Tap, Worcester

**CABARET NIGHT** - every Friday night from 11pm. Dover Castle Leicester

**CLUB NIGHT** - with DJ Rob Lambeth from midnight playing chart toppers. He sink, Leics

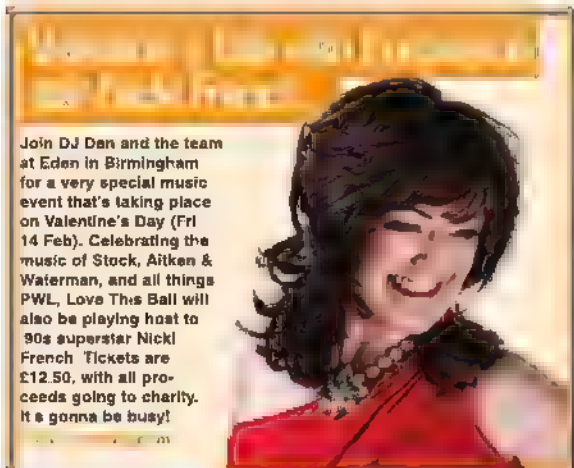
**KARAOKE** - 8-12pm. £1 drinks (happy hour @ midnight). Free admission. Queen of Clubs. Nottingham

**LIPSTIQUE** - With DJ Ash playing old school camp classics. Every 2nd, 3rd & 4th Friday monthly. Curzons Derby

**MY JURY** - until Sat 15 Feb - Sally Ann Inglett, star of the West End and Eurovision, brings the iconic singer to life. Nottingham Playhouse, Nottingham

**PINK POUNDER** - DJ Cilla playing the best pop, dance, chart and RnB. £8 entry and £1 drinks! Open 9pm-4am. The Boston, Northampton

**THE WEEKEND STARTS NOW** - free admission before 11pm (all night for students) BOGOF on selected drinks. Poptastic every 1st Friday monthly. NG1 Nottingham



Join DJ Dan and the team at Eden in Birmingham for a very special music event that's taking place on Valentine's Day (Fri 14 Feb). Celebrating the music of Stock, Aitken & Waterman, and all things PWL, Love This Ball will also be playing host to 90s superstar Nicki French. Tickets are £12.50, with all proceeds going to charity. It's gonna be busy!



**THE BIGGER BETTER  
BOLDER BEARS CLUB**

**XXL BIRMINGHAM**

3RD FRIDAY, EVERY MONTH

9PM - 3AM

THE CORE

135 SHERLOCK ST, BIRMINGHAM

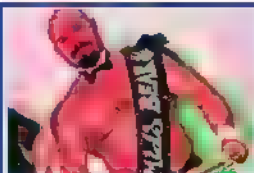
[WWW.XXL-LONDON.COM](http://WWW.XXL-LONDON.COM)

[FACEBOOK.COM/XXLLONDON](https://FACEBOOK.COM/XXLLONDON)



## BIRMINGHAM

- THE ATTIC** - Available for hire. Call the venue for more info - 0121 622 4256. Missing Bar
- BACK TO THE 80s** - 2am - 4am. Eden Bar



### BEARBRUM RETURNS TO EDEN BAR

If you're a bear, a friend, admirer or supporter, then head down to Eden in Birmingham for BearBrum on Saturday 8 February. It's a night of free food and great music in the company of like-minded people. Eden - Birmingham

- BEARBRUM** - Sat 8 Feb - Free food, With DJ Yogi. In association with Mids Bears. Eden



### DJ LOTTY'S BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT

Always a popular event, The Big Saturday Night Out at The Village Inn sees DJ Lotty take to the decks, playing a fine mix of pop, chart, dance, and much, much more! Pop In and say hi - you won't want to leave! The Village Inn - Birmingham

- BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT** - Over 2 floors, 3 DJs. Open til 8am. With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonia in The Village Underground. The Village Inn

- BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT** - Every Saturday, with loads of drinks promotions. Nightingale Club
- CHART HITS** - with DJ Dan 9pm, from 2am it's back to the 80s with cheap drink promotions. Eden Bar
- CULT** - Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm. Nightingale Club

### NEW-LOOK CULT BLACK & GOLD PARTY!

Saturday 22 February sees the Gale hosting a special Cult party, featuring a Black & Gold theme, a new look and a brand new chill-out area to enjoy. So if you're a fan of 'filthy house music', this is for you! The Nightingale - Birmingham

- CULT - BLACK & GOLD** - Sat 22 Feb - New Look, New Chill Out areas. Plus Mess (The After Party) Now open until 8am. Nightingale Club
- JUST SAYING** - with DJ Matt. Bar Jester
- KARAOKE & COCKTAILS** - In The Attic, plus music from across the decades. Missing Bar

### LATE NIGHT VIBES AT THE VILLAGE INN

If you're looking for a late-night party, then pop into The Village Inn and see Charlotte the Harlot. She'll be keeping the fun going until 8am(!), playing the best music from the charts and beyond! The Village Inn - Birmingham

- L8R** - With Charlotte the Harlot. Open until 8am every Saturday. The Village Inn
- NEW WINTER MENU** - 11am-9pm. Check out their new winter meal deals. The Loft Lounge
- SATURS-FACTION** - With DJ Kam. Sidewalk Slammers and drink promos. Sidewalk
- SLAG TAG** - Sat 15 Feb - Fancy someone? Text the screen

## Traffic Light Party helping you to find love whilst clubbing!

To get into the spirit of Valentine's Day, Birmingham gay superclub The Nightingale is set to host a huge Traffic Light Party on Saturday 15 February. The concept is simple yet super - If you're looking to meet someone and you're single, wear green. If your relationship status is a bit more complicated, wear orange, and if you're taken, wear red and they'll steer well clear!

The Nightingale - Birmingham



with their number and leave them a message. Missing Bar

- TRAFFIC LIGHT PARTY** - Sat 15 Feb - Valentine's Day Special with DJs Corey, Simon B, Simon H, Craig N, Wayne H & Lisa Sharred. Nightingale Club
- VALENTINES DAY MEAL** - Sat 15 Feb - 2 Courses £19.95, 3 Courses £4.95, both menus includes a glass of Prosecco each. The Loft Lounge



### DJ MYKEE <3 SATURDAY NIGHTS!

DJ Mykee and the Missing Bar team love Saturdays so much they've named them just that - We <3 Saturdays. The night features awesome tunes, a great atmosphere, Twiggy hosting and sexy Shane on suits! Missing - Birmingham

- WE <3 SATURDAYS** - with DJ Mykee playing the best party tunes. Featuring Twiggy and sexy Shane on his suits. Open until 4am. Missing Bar

**THE BREAKFAST CLUB** Every Saturday. The Ultimate Monday Night. Out with DJs Benny Rich, Wayne B and Scotty. Lifting funky vocal house, jackin' to, se and speed garage. Free before 12am. £12 guests. £10 members. £6 students. Club One

- DJ NIKKI** - 1st Sat monthly. Equator Bar
- DJ PARTY NIGHT** - Open from 3pm late. The Fox
- KARAOKE** - Every Saturday. The Village Inn

## WEST MIDLANDS

- PRODUCTION & CORRUPTION** - Production with Divina De Campo (main room). Upstairs for Corruption with DJ Destiny. 1st Sat every

month - Casa De Casa House Night with Destiny and DJ Jon The Factory, Stoke on Trent

**THE NIGHT OUT** - Big DJs, top tunes. 8pm-3.30am. The Lion Works

**CAMP & SLAG** 9pm-6am. Drinks from £1.50. Midnight DJ Phil Gardner until 2.30am then SLAG residents and surprise Gorgeo's. Wolvehampton

**CLUB NIGHT** Drink promotions until 3.45. Free entry before 10pm. The Three Furnaces, Telford

**FLOORFILLERS** - with DJ Andrew Smith. Rainbows, Coventry

**INCLUSION** - with big name Birmingham & UK DJs every week. The Bell, Stourbridge

**LIVE CABARET** With DJs Gaz and Mikey. 5am. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

**NOT TO MISS** - Free admission before 11pm. Tanya Hyde's Cabaret show 9pm. Pink Stoke on Trent

**STOKE PRIDE BALL** Sat 15 February - The Anna's Charity Gala Ball. Moat House Hotel, Stoke on Trent

## EAST MIDLANDS

**BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT** - 10.30-6.30am. 3 DJs. Free admission before midnight. 5th and 6th floors. NG1 Nottingham

**BIG WEEKEND PARTY NIGHT** - 10pm-1.30am. Free entry before 11pm. £3 before 1am and £5 after. Featuring DJ Clinton P. Playing the best camp, cheese, party and pop. The Bastion, Northampton

**CLUB NIGHT** - With DJ Nick B. Playing the best tunes and club tracks from midnight. Free entry before midnight. £6 after. Heink, Leicester

**DOGGY STYLE** - Every 3rd Saturday monthly. Curzons, Derby

**POP TARTS** - 2 DJs on rotation. Open 9pm-3am. Queen of Cups, Nottingham

**SATURDAY** - Camp tunes all the way through to 2am. Dover Castle, Leicester

## Twiggy plays Cupid with SLAG Tag Valentine's party at Missing

If you feel you're missing out on Valentine's Day, then pop down to Missing Bar in Brum on Saturday 15 February for its SLAG Tag party. If you've seen someone you like the look of, text the screen with their number and your message will appear for them to see! Missing - Birmingham



A graphic background featuring a traffic light with a glowing red light and a red octagonal stop sign with the word "STOP" in white. To the left of the stop sign is a traffic cone with orange and white stripes. The overall scene is set against a dark, textured background.

**STOP**

# TRAFFIC LIGHT PARTY

**VALENTINES DAY SPECIAL**

**SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

**[WWW.NIGHTINGALECLUB.CO.UK](http://WWW.NIGHTINGALECLUB.CO.UK)**

**COREY - SIMON B - SIMON H - CRAIG N - WAYNE H - LISA SHARRED**

[WWW.NIGHTINGALECLUB.CO.UK](http://WWW.NIGHTINGALECLUB.CO.UK)

**NIGHTINGALE CLUB, KENT STREET, BIRMINGHAM, B5 6RD**





## BIRMINGHAM

**2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS**  
Sunday to Friday - All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two. The Loft Lounge

**DISCO & KARAOKE** with DJ Nikk. Every Sunday. Eden

**KARAOKE** from 8pm. Sidewalk

### IN NEED OF A HANGOVER CURE?

Have you had a heavy weekend of partying? Are you sporting the hangover from hell? Well, The Loft Lounge in Brum has the answer! Sunday breakfast from just £7.95 - everything you need to make you feel better! The Loft Lounge - Birmingham

**MISSING PRESENTS** - Cabaret every Sunday hosted by one of their fabulous drag queens. Missing Bar

**NEW WINTER MENU** - 11am-9pm. Check out their new winter meal deals. The Loft Lounge

**SING STAR SUPERSTAR** The Grand Final, and the winners bags £300. Eden Bar

**SUNDAY BREAKFAST** - The perfect hangover cure from 9am. Just £7.95. Carvery from 12noon for just £9.95. The Loft Lounge

### SUNDAY FUNDAY AT THE JESTER!

Just because it's Sunday, don't think it's time to stop partying! If you're looking for a night of clubbing, then go see Baby G at Bar Jester in Birmingham for Sunday Funday. A great night out to end the week!

Bar Jester - Birmingham

**SUNDAY IS FUNDAY** - with Baby G. Bar Jester

**SUNDAY LOUNGE** - Karaoke & monthly quiz. Sidewalk

**SUNDAY SESSION** - with Mrs Mills and DJ Deano. P us Bingo with Mrs Mills from 7pm. The Village Inn

### QUIZ AND KARAOKE FUN TO END THE WEEK

If you want to give your brain a bit of a workout, then head to Birmingham's Sidewalk bar for its weekly quiz. If that's not for you, then there's a spot of karaoke to enjoy instead! You lot are spoilt for choice!

Sidewalk - Birmingham

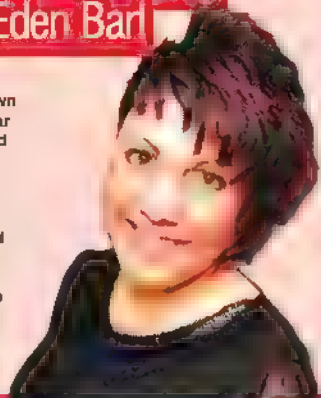
**CHILLAX** - Look out for the special Sunday promotions. Open 3pm-late. The Fox

**THREE COURSE LUNCH** on y £7.50. The Wellington

### Disco and karaoke every Sunday at Eden Bar!

If you don't want your weekend to end, pop down to Birmingham's Eden Bar for a night of karaoke and disco fun with DJ Nikk. Grab a mic, sing a song, have a dance and get merry with your mates. What better way to spend a Sunday? And let's face it, it's certainly better than sitting in front of the telly waiting for Monday morning to arrive!

Missing - Birmingham



## WEST MIDLANDS



### DJ KARLIKO WRAPS UP YOUR WEEK IN STYLE

Every Sunday night, join DJ Karliko and the team at The Factory in Stoke for a night of fab music, karaoke and bingo. There are £20 vouchers to be won and drinks from a pound! What more could you ask for? The Factory - Stoke on Trent

**SECTIONED SUNDAYS** - with DJ Karliko. Karaoke, Disco & Bingo. £20 vouchers to be won. 7pm-1am. Drinks from £1. Free admission all night. The Factory, Stoke on Trent

**CHILL OUT** After the party Rainbows, Coventry

**CLUB SUNDAY** - Free admission, selected 2 for 1 drinks. From 8pm. Lion Bar & Club Walsall

**KARAOKE NIGHT** - Free admission, hosted by Foxy Divine

Pink Stone on Trent

### WANTY'S REALITY

- 9pm-4am - Fun & Games Karaoke. Prizes and a round mayhem. Drinks from £2. Gorgeous. Wolverhampton

**OKIE DOKIE KARAOKE** with DJ Shawn and Ga'e Force. Open till 4am. The White Hart Wolverhampton

**BECKON PARTY NIGHT** - Open 7pm-2am with drink promos. Three Furnaces, Teferd

**SUNDAY ROAST** - Served from 2am. The White Hart, Wolverhampton

## EAST MIDLANDS

**BRUNCH CLUB** - Brunch for £5 with unlimited soft drinks midday - 3pm. Rainbow & Dove. Leicester

**DRAG CABARET SHOW** Every Sunday, 10.30pm. Queen of C.ubs, Nottingham

**KARAOKE WITH JOCKYDOL** 9pm-2am. £6 cocktail pitchers with free entry all night. The Boston, Northampton

### BECKON TRUMPHANTLY BRIBED & CABARET

From 5pm, bringing you a combination of Gay Bingo, Play Your Cards Right and Cabaret. Dover Castle, Leicester

FRIDAY 14TH & SATURDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2014

*Cabaret*  
**VALENTINES**  
*in style*

2 COURSE MENU

£22.50



Reserve your table online at [www.thepeachtree.co.uk](http://www.thepeachtree.co.uk)

Call us on 01743 355055 Or pop in and see us

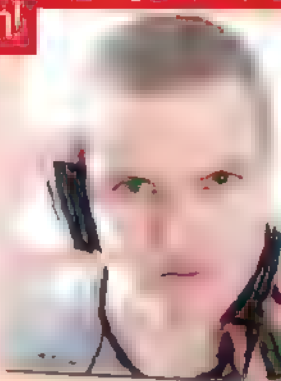
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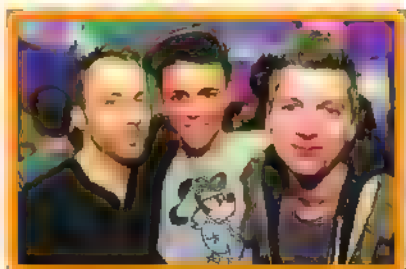
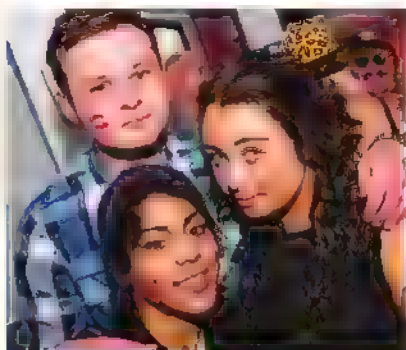
### Get ready for a Sunday Session in Birmingham!

Join DJ Deano every Sunday night at The Village Inn in Birmingham - he'll be there to wrap up your weekend in style, playing a great selection of the very best tunes. Whether it's dance, R'n'B, commercial or chart, you'll be on the dancefloor all night long! There's also bingo to enjoy, with the one-and-only Mrs Mills. The weekend isn't over yet, folks, so head on down for a great night out!

The Village Inn - Birmingham



# It's a non-stop party at **The Village Inn** in Brum!



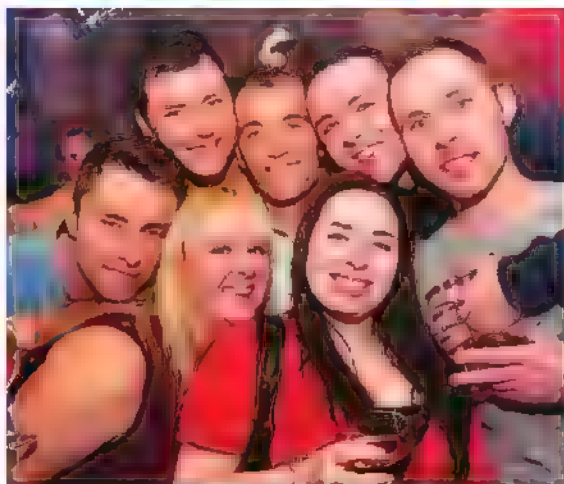
The Midlands Zone team are big fans of a serious party atmosphere. That's why, whenever we pop to Birmingham for a night out with the gays, we make a point of stopping off at The Village Inn.

Every Saturday night sees Daz Lott and Richard Moon take to the decks and create some real party magic. Playing the best mix of commercial, chart, pop and cheese - plus much more - they whip the dancefloor into a frenzy!

That's not all, though. If you fancy a change of scenery but want to carry on with the party atmosphere, you can head on down to The Village Underground for L&R with Charlotte the Harotell! It's open until 8am, making it one of the latest finishing parties on the Birmingham gay scene.

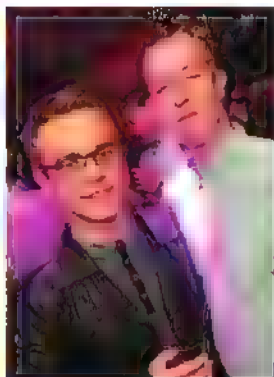
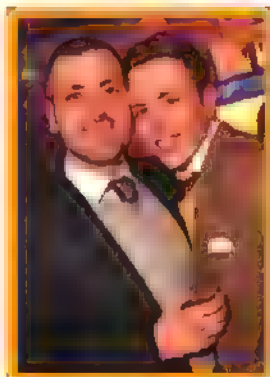
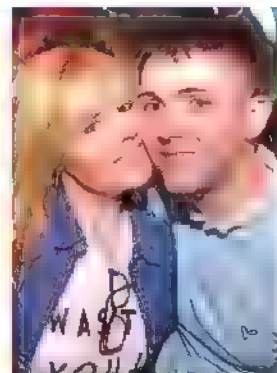
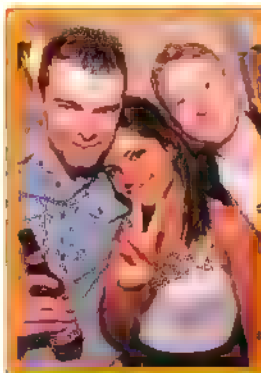
We'll be safely tucked up in bed by that time, though! : )

For more information about The Village Inn, visit [www.villagebirmingham.co.uk](http://www.villagebirmingham.co.uk).



More great photos on **facebook**

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Pictures by **Laura Byrne**



# LET US ENTERTAIN

The Village Inn :: BIRMINGHAM'S No.1 CABARET VENUE AS VOTED BY YOU!



OPEN TILL 8AM EVERY SATURDAY  
WITH CHARLOTTE THE HARLOTTE

3 CHANCES TO WIN



Jacky  
Tuesdays

# ENTERTAIN YOU

*in February*

MONDAY	 <p><b>play your cards Right</b></p> <p>Join Miss Mills and DJ Craig for a chance to win great cash prizes and FREE drinks</p>
TUESDAY	 <p><b>Tacky Tuesdays</b></p> <p>WITH CHARLOTTE THE HARLOT AND DJ DEANO</p>
WEDNESDAY	 <p><b>KARAOKE</b></p> <p>WITH CHARLOTTE THE HARLOT AND DJ DEANO</p>
THURSDAY	 <p>SONGS, GAMES AND HAPPY HOUR TILL 2AM</p>  <p><b>Marty's Madhouse</b></p>
FRIDAY	 <p><b>DILOTTA'S FREAKY FRIDAY!</b></p> <p>JOIN DJ'S LOTTY &amp; RICHARD MOON FOR YOUR SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY</p>
SATURDAY	 <p><b>BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT</b></p> <p>JOIN DJ'S LOTTY &amp; RICHARD MOON FOR YOUR SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY</p>
SUNDAY	 <p><b>SUNDAY SESSION</b></p> <p>WITH DJ DEANO AND MISS MILLS</p> <p><b>BINGO</b></p>

Call 0121 622 4742  
Unit 152 Hurst Street, Birmingham, B5 6RY  
click [www.villageinbirmingham.co.uk](http://www.villageinbirmingham.co.uk)



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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 12PM - LATE  
HAPPY HOUR  
12PM - 13PM  
SUNDAY - WEDNESDAY  
12PM - 2PM  
THURSDAY NIGHT  
12PM - 3PM  
FRIDAY NIGHT

[villageinbirmingham.co.uk](http://villageinbirmingham.co.uk)  
coming soon

The Village



## Join Twiggy and DJ Mykee at **Missing!**

**Missing** - the self-professed 'party bar' of Birmingham's gay village, is a venue which attracts such a diverse crowd that you'll never have the same night twice!

Pop in on a Saturday evening and you'll be greeted by the bitchy-yet lovely Twiggy - who hosts the electric We <3 Saturdays

party each weekend

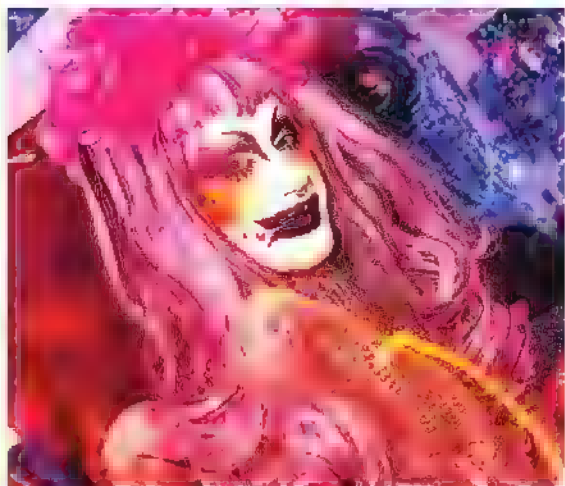
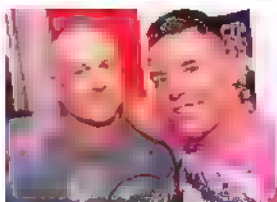
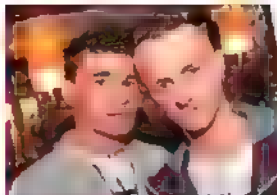
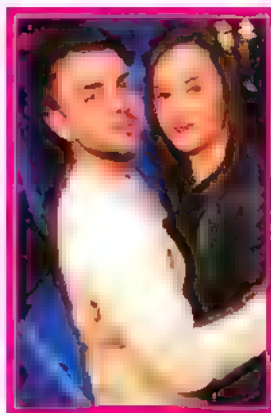
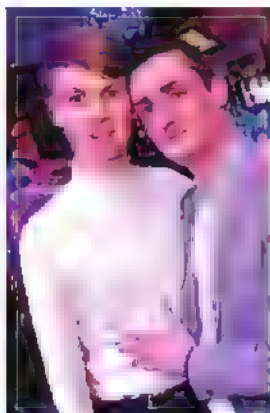
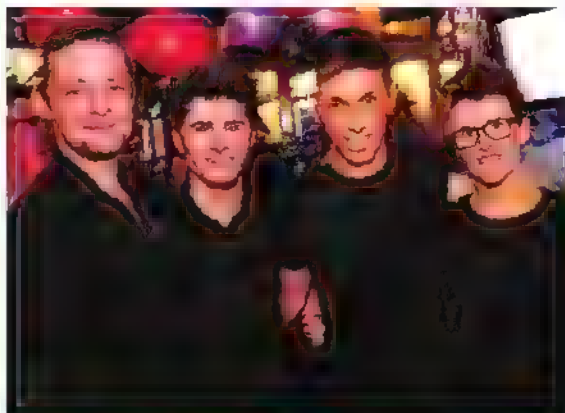
You'll also find DJ Mykee on the decks, playing a great blend of chart, pop, cheese and dance, as well as some of the biggest commercial tracks on the circuit at the moment

The bar's fantastic and friendly bar team are also on hand to keep you refreshed through

out the night - and they've got some cracking drinks offers to tempt you with too

So if you've not been down to Missing for a while, make sure you do so asap, because you're most certainly 'missing out'!

For more information about Missing, visit [www.missingbar.co.uk](http://www.missingbar.co.uk)



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Pictures by Laura Byrne

# Missing

SLAG TAG!

15 FEBRUARY 2013

TXT THE SCREEN THE  
NUMBER OF THE  
PERSON, AND LEAVE  
THEM A MESSAGE

KARAOKE  
&  
COCKTAILS

We  
Saturday

STRY  
OFFPS  
£1 DRINKS  
EVERY MONDAY

£2 DRINKS  
EVERY WEDNESDAY

2 GOOD  
2 MISS!

M is  
KARAOKE  
EVERY TUESDAY

BOMBZAI  
£1.20 BOMBS  
EVERY THURSDAY

We  
Saturday  
BIGGEST PARTY  
EVERY SATURDAY

BIG  
80'S  
90'S  
& TODAY  
EVERY FRIDAY

KARAOKE  
&  
COCKTAILS  
IN THE ATTIC  
EVERY SATURDAY

Missing  
presents...  
CABARET  
EVERY SUNDAY



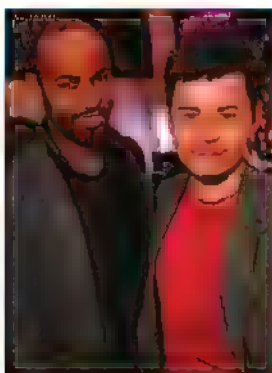
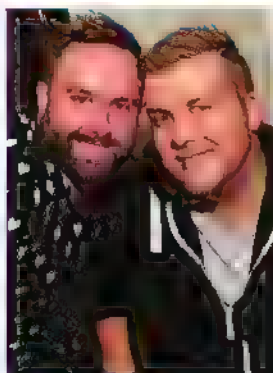
# Enjoy cocktails and champagne at **The Loft Lounge**

The Loft Lounge, located right in the heart of Birmingham's gay village, is a great place to kick-start your night out in style!

Whether it's with a three-course meal, a cracking cocktail or a bit of bubbly, you'll fit right in at the Bromsgrove Street venue.

Couple all that with a great atmosphere - helped along by DJ Simon Baker playing a top selection of dance hits to get you in the mood - and you're definitely in for a fun time! Boasting plush surroundings and great customers, we're confident you'll love it.

Visit The Loft Lounge's website at [www.theloftlounge.co.uk](http://www.theloftlounge.co.uk) for more information or give them a ring on 0121 622 2444.



More great photos on **facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/theloftlounge>

Pictures by **Laura Byrne**



## Ms Dynamite blows it up at **The Nightingale**

Aside from Birmingham Pride weekend, the biggest highlights of any year is, without doubt, New Year's Eve. But what's the next biggest highlight of the year?... Why it's the New Year's Eve Re-run event, of course!

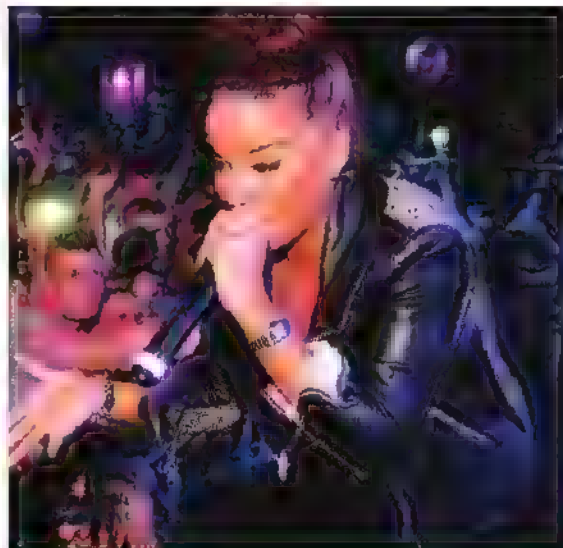
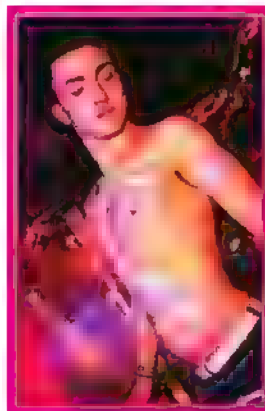
The Nightingale loved bringing in 2014 so much that they decided to do it all over again. But this time they did it even bigger and better than on 31 December by playing host to a fantastic live PA from R'n'B legend Ms Dynamite (are we the only ones that can't say her name without singing Dyna-mi-tee-hee?)

And judging from the feedback we heard on the night, Ms Dynamite certainly hasn't lost it!

There's just one question on our lips, though - can we have a New Year's Eve Re-run Re-run?

With top quality acts like this, it's no wonder The Nightingale is up for Best Live Entertainment Venue in the Midlands Zone Readers Awards!

For more information about what's coming up at The Nightingale in the future, visit [www.nightingaleclub.co.uk](http://www.nightingaleclub.co.uk), or call the venue on 0121 622 1718 and speak to the team!



More great photos on **facebook**  
[facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk](http://facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk)



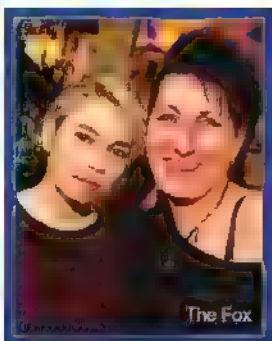
Pictures by Laura Byrne



# Out and about in **Birmingham's** gay village!

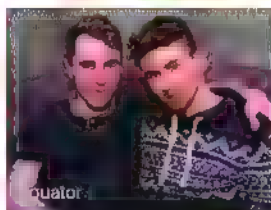
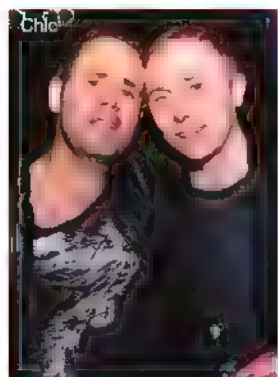
Boasting 16 gay bars and clubs, Birmingham offers one of the most vibrant and diverse gay scenes in the whole of the country.

Last month, we took some pics in a selection of Brum's finest gay venues, including Equator, Chic and The Fox. And as you can see everybody we snapped was happy to show us their party faces (and some of 'em even said "cheese"!)

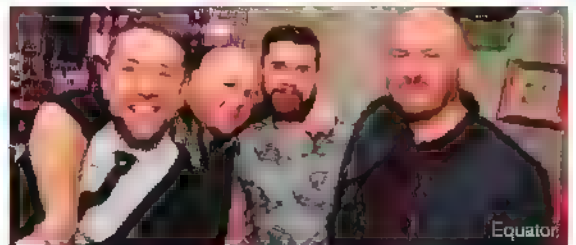
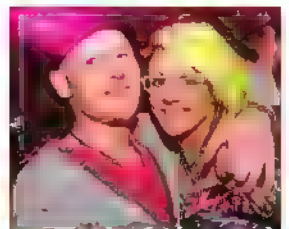
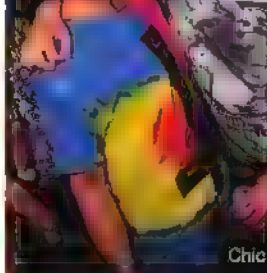
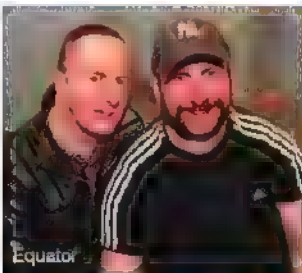
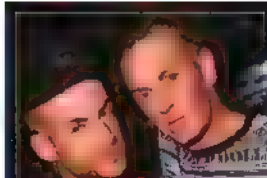
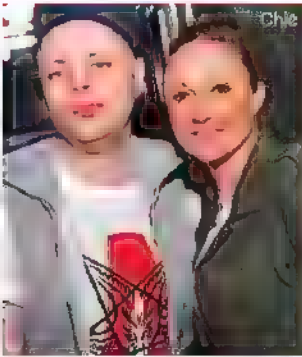


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Pictures by **Laura Byrne**





# Take a trip to Sidewalk for a great night out!

If you're out and about in Birmingham's gay village with a bunch of your mates - or maybe even on a date - then pop into Sidewalk, situated right in the heart of the city's bustling gay scene.

Each and every weekend, the venue opens its doors to a fantastic crowd of punters who're looking to enjoy a great atmosphere before heading on for a late night of clubbing.

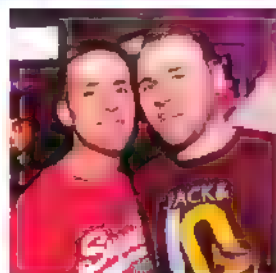
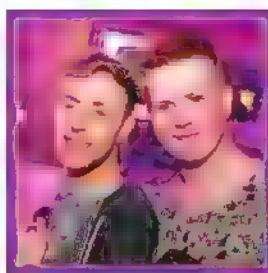
With Valentine's Day taking place this month, Sidewalk is hosting a Traffic Light Party on the big day (Friday 14 February). Dress accordingly and you

never know - you might just find 'The One'. Wear green if you're available, orange if your situation is 'complicated', or red if you're taken.

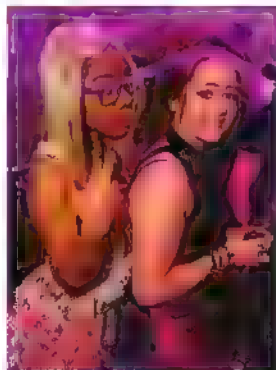
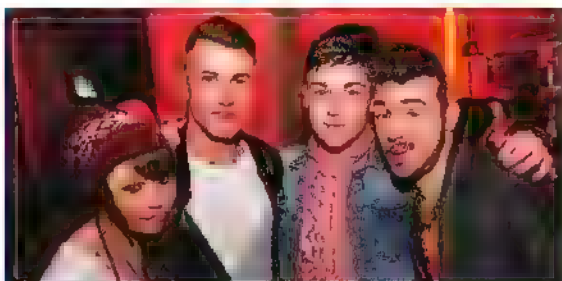
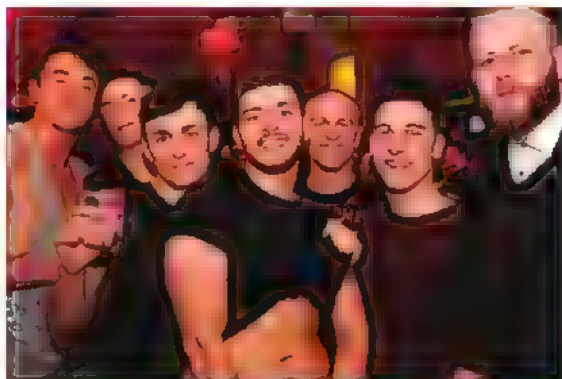
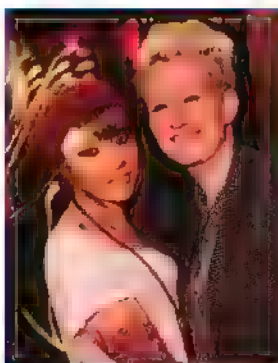
It's free entry all night, there's a DJ blasting out some of the biggest hits of the moment, and there's even a Traffic Light Pint for just £3.

So if you're single, be sure to head on down and take part - you never know, you may just strike it lucky!

For more information about Sidewalk, you can find it on Facebook or call them on 0121 666 6220.



Find us on Facebook



# Eden: Mr MidsBears UK crowned at BearBrum event



**Award-winning Birmingham gay bar Eden last month hosted the final of BearBrum's search for Mr MidsBears UK!**

The contest had seen monthly heats running from late summer 2013 onwards

January's big Final drew hundreds of likeminded bears, friends and admirers to Eden for a night of great music, free food and top drinks promotions.

Following voting by judges and the audience, it was announced that Aaron Fellows had won the competition.

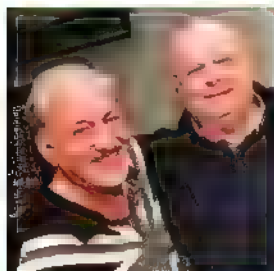
As well as being crowned Mr MidsBears UK, Aaron walked away with a £500 cash prize.

The next BearBrum event takes place on Saturday 8 February. Entry to the event is £3, with the chance to win half of the door-take.

Entry is just £2 if you're a MidsBears member or part of Birmingham Bulls RFC.

That's not all that goes on at Eden Bar though - check out its full diary listings in our Scene Diary.

For more information about Eden Bar, visit [www.theedenbar.co.uk](http://www.theedenbar.co.uk), or call 0121 622 1953.





## A great night out for the men of the Midlands at **XXL**

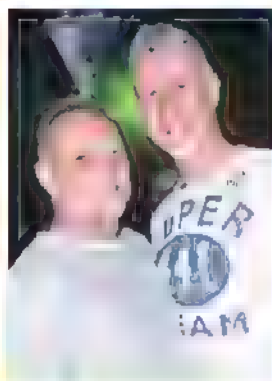
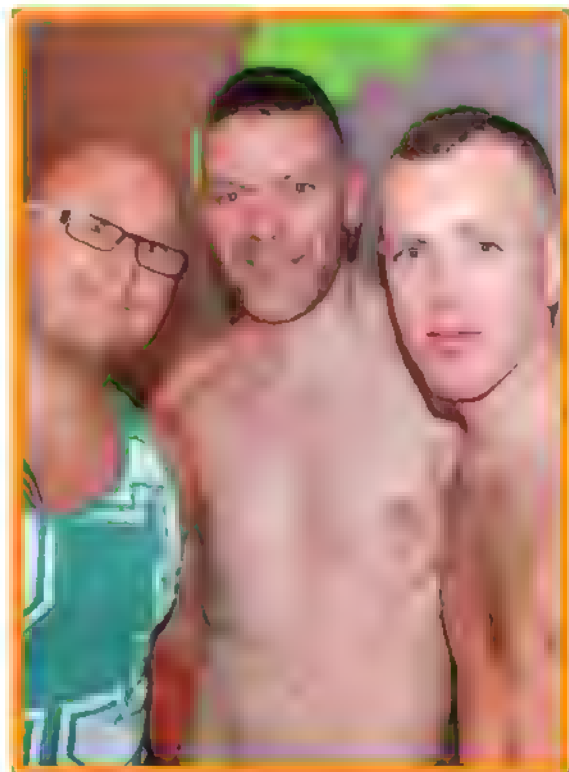
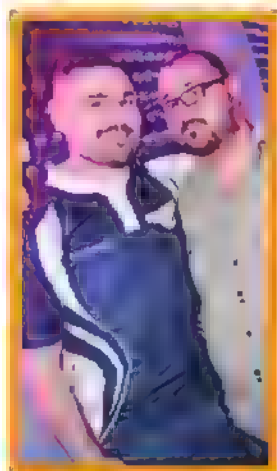
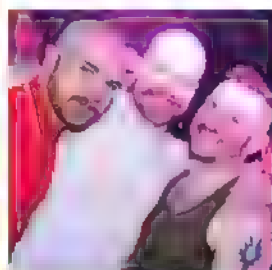
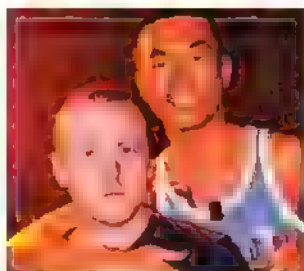
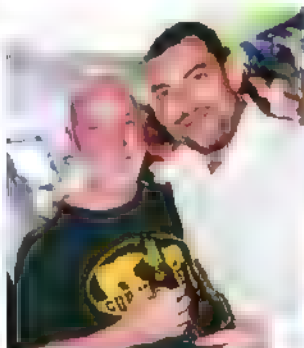
Once a month, popular London clubnight **XXL** descends on Birmingham's gay scene. And just like its London counterpart, it's extremely popular.

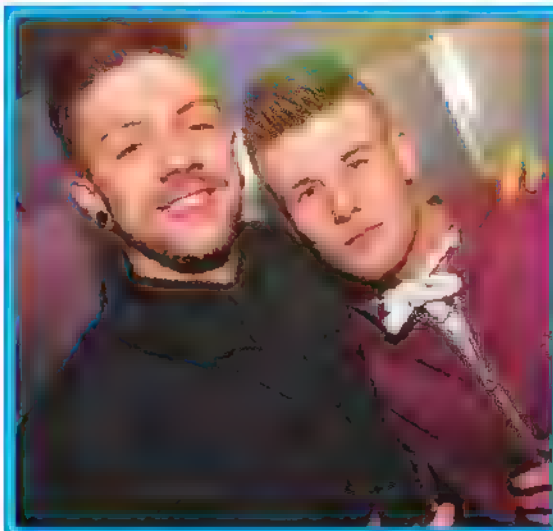
The once-monthly men-only event sees ferals of all shapes and sizes head down to Sherlock Street based nightclub The Core for an evening of great music, brilliant drinks deals and for those who're interested, a dark n' cruisy atmosphere.

DJ Christian M takes to the decks, playing the very best floor-fillers around as punters dance the night away.

XXL takes place on the third Friday of every month, with the next event scheduled for Friday 21 February.

For more information about The Core Club, head to [www.thecoreclub.co.uk](http://www.thecoreclub.co.uk) or for more information about XXL, visit [www.xxl-london.com](http://www.xxl-london.com).





## Bar Jester rocks with #JustSaying Saturdays

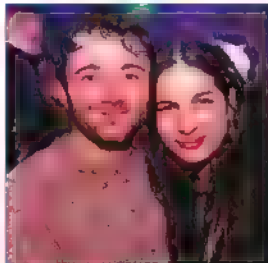
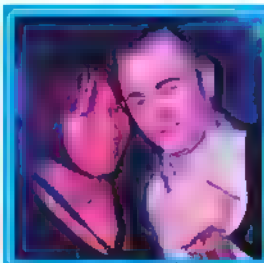
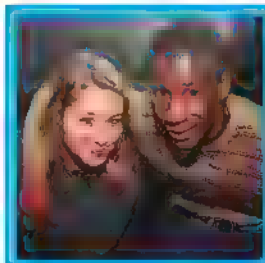
If you're up for an extended night out on a Saturday, be sure to head down to Birmingham's Bar Jester - It's open right through until 6am. Yep, that's right - 6am!

Join DJ Matt for a floor filling night of music from 9pm. There are even some great drinks of fers before 2am - so get down early to take advantage of them! How does four bottled beers four alcopops or three bottled ciders for a tenner sound? Or how about four Jagerbombs for £10? Now that's what we call great drinks offers! We'll definitely be taking advantage!

If you're not out on a Saturday, fear not - there's plenty going on at the venue throughout the week. Each and every Friday join DJ Matt until 6am for five decades of dance music. Or on Thursdays join DJ Marcus and Baby Doe for Party Pop, with fun and games galore!

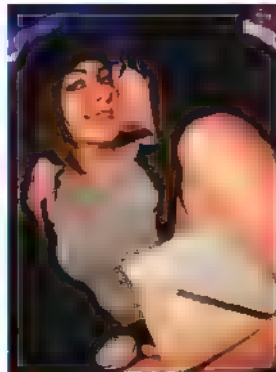
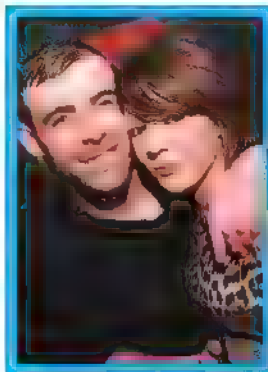
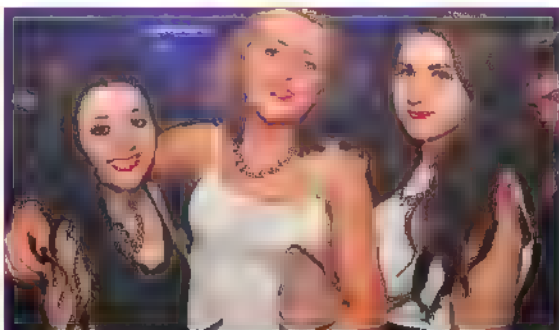
There's plenty going on every other night of the week too complete with a great team of DJs and hosts - you certainly won't be short of things to do

For more information about Bar Jester, check out its website at [www.barjester.co.uk](http://www.barjester.co.uk) or call 0121 643 8344.



More great photos on **facebook**

[facebook.com/justsayingbham](https://www.facebook.com/justsayingbham)



Pictures by Laura Byrne



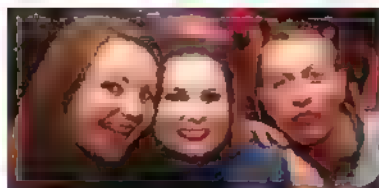
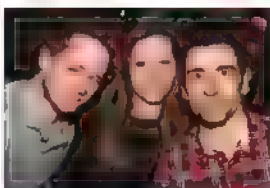
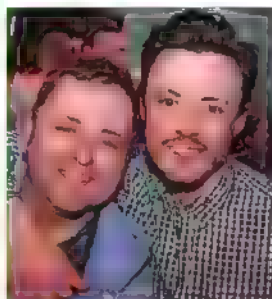
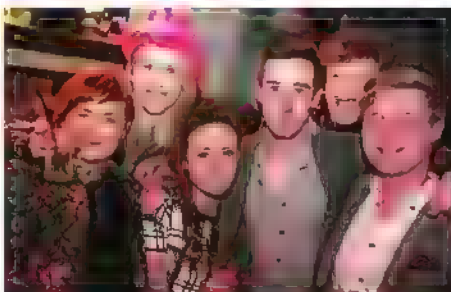
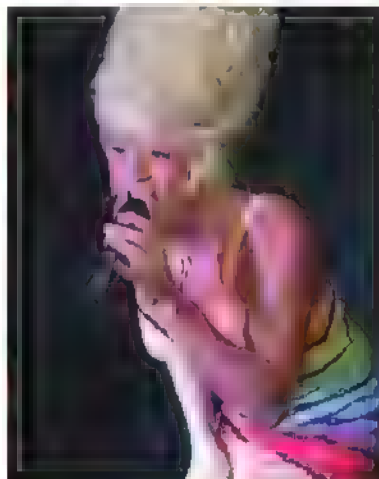
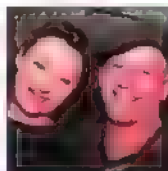
# The Drag With No Name entertains at C:21

Shrewsbury's C:21 once again laid on a memorable night of cabaret last month.

Brighton's Drag With No Name took to the stage in front of a capacity crowd, presenting an evening of great comedy and trademark parody songs.

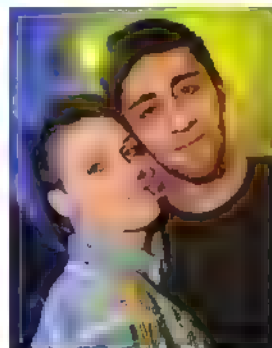
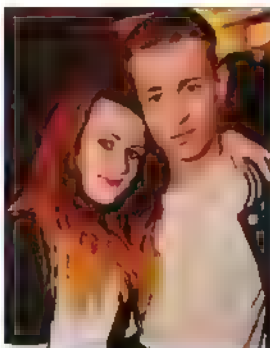
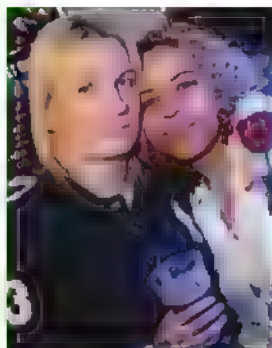
C:21 hosts live cabaret every first Monday of the month, with Monday 3 February seeing the long-awaited return of popular Brummie drag duo Glitter Lips.

If you're on a budget, then worry not, as drinks start from just £1! Vodka & Energy's just £1.99! Bargain!



Pictures by Ryan Humphreys

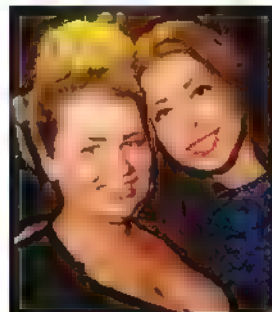
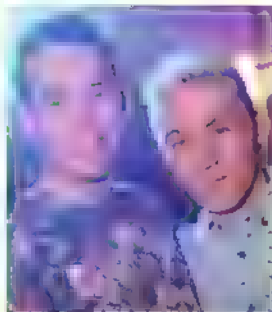
# There's a **Gorgeous** night out to be had in Wolves!



Popular Wolverhampton gay venue **Gorgeous Bar & Club** plays host to huge crowds every weekend.

With music to suit every taste, the venue's resident DJs will have you on the dancefloor all night long.

Meanwhile, at the bar, there's a great selection of drinks at equally great prices. So whatever your favourite tipple, feel safe in the knowledge that you won't be having a budget-busting night out! Pop in and say hi this month - you'll love it!



Pictures by Jonathan Azzopardi

## Birmingham

### BAR JESTER

Holloway Circus,  
B1 1EG  
Tel: 0121 643 8344  
www.barjester.co.uk  
See pictures on page 51

### BOLTZ CLUB

Lower Essex St B5 6QP  
Tel: 0121 666 6888

### CLUB CHIC

28 Horsefair B11DD  
Tel: 0121 666 6806

### CLUB DV8

17 Lower Essex St  
B5 6SN  
Tel: 0121 622 3219

### THE CORE

Sherlock St, B5 6NB  
Tel: 0121 622 2797  
www.thecoreclub.co.uk  
See pictures on page 50

### EDEN BAR

Sherlock St, B5 6NB  
Tel: 0121 622 1953  
www.theedenbar.co.uk  
See pictures on page 49

### EQUATOR

Hurst St, B5 6SE  
Tel: 0121 622 5077

### WRENTHAM 181

Wrentham St, B5 6QL  
Tel: 0121 622 1452

### THE FOX

17 Lower Essex St  
B5 6SN  
Tel: 0121 622 3219

### LOFT LOUNGE

142 Bromsgrove St,  
B5 6RG  
Tel: 0121 622 444  
www.theloftlounge.co.uk  
See pictures on page 44

### MISSING BAR

Hurst St, B5 6NU  
Tel: 0121 622 4256  
www.missingbar.co.uk  
See pictures on page 42

### THE NIGHTINGALE

Kent St, B ham  
B5 6RD  
Tel: 0121 622 1718  
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk  
See pictures on page 45

### RSVP (Formerly Queer Street)

For Exclusive Hire  
Hurst St, B5 6SE  
Tel: 0121 622 2444

### SIDEWALK

Hurst Street,  
B1 1EQ  
Tel: 0121 666 6220  
www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk  
See pictures on page 48

### THE VILLAGE INN

Hurst St, B ham  
B5 4BD  
Tel: 0121 622 4742  
www.villageinnbirmingham.co.uk  
See pictures on page 39

### THE WELLINGTON

72 Bristol St, B5 7AH  
Tel: 0121 622 2592

## West Midlands

### COVENTRY

### RAINBOWS

Short St, CV1 2LW  
Tel: 02476 551738

### THE WESTGATE

Westgate Street,  
G1 1NF  
Tel: 01452 690045

## KIDDERMINSTER

### ROYAL EXCHANGE

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### LEEK

### VALIANT

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Tel: 01538 382812

### THE PEACH TREE

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Tel: 01743 355055  
www.thepeachtree.co.uk  
See pictures on page 52

### THE PEACH TREE RESTAURANT

### THE PEACH TREE RESTAURANT

21 Abbey Foregate  
Tel: 01743 355055  
www.thepeachtree.co.uk  
See pictures on page 52

### SPIN

22 Abbey Foregate,  
SY2 6AE  
Tel: 01743 271821  
www.spiritshrewsbury.co.uk  
See pictures on page 39

### STOKE-ON-TRENT

### THE FACTORY

67 Bryan St  
Hanley, ST1 5AF  
www.thefactorystoke.co.uk  
See pictures on page 42

### PINK

93 Stafford Street  
ST1 1LS  
Tel: 01782 272772

### THE BELL

20 Market St, DY8 1AG  
Tel: 07826 518478

## STRATFORD upon AVON

### NO7

Prowd Crowd  
1st Mon monthly  
7 Windsor St  
Tel: 07787 642510

### THE FOUNTAIN

30 Bridgnorth Rd  
Madeley, TF7 4JB  
Tel: 01952 588521

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Madeley, TF7 4JB  
Tel: 01952 588521

## East Midlands

### DERBY

### THE FOUNTAIN

East St (above Castle & Falcon)  
Tel: 07514 230867

### THE FOUNTAIN

40 Curzon St, DE1 1LL  
Tel: 01332 381742

## BURTON

25 Curzon St, DE1 1JH  
Tel: 01332 363739

## LEICESTER

### DOVE CASTLE

34 Dover St, LE16PT  
Tel: 0116 255 3052

### HELSENKI

34 R. Jan 1 St, LE1 1 B  
Tel: 0116 254 7588

### RAINBOW & DOVE

185 Charles St, LE1 1LA  
Tel: 0116 254 7588

### SLOANES

3-5 New Walk, LE1 6RL  
Tel: 0116 255 2220

### THE FOUNTAIN

24 Dryden Street, LE1 3QE  
Tel: 07773 409261

## MANSFIELD

### CHEEKY MONKEY

Leeming St, NG18 1NG  
Tel: 01623 633330

### THE FOUNTAIN

College St, NN1 2QP  
Tel: 01604 604404

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Tel: 01604 604404

## BIRMINGHAM VENUES

### VENUE KEY

1 Missing	9 Boltz Club
2 Loft Lounge	10 The Fox
3 Equator	11 The Nightingale
4 Sidewalk	12 Club DV8
5 Queer Street	13 The Fountain
6 The Village	14 The Wellington
7 Eden Bar	15 Club Chic
8 The Core	16 Bar Jester

## BARS & CLUBS

### IN THIS ISSUE

## ARE FEATURED

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Page No

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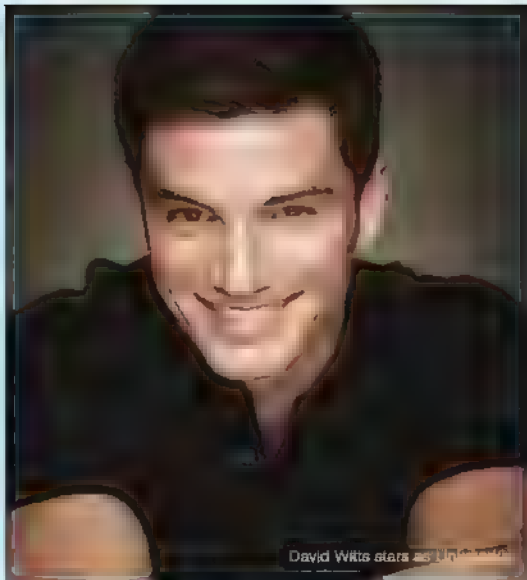
Jon Cartwright on 01743 281703



## Hairspray

This hugely popular Tony and Olivier Award-winning show is set in 1962 and boasts a jukebox-worth of '60s style dance music and 'downtown' rhythm and blues. It tells the story of big-haired, chubby teenager Tracy Turnblad, who enjoys an overnight rise to stardom when she earns the chance to appear on a local TV dance show.

**The Curve, Leicester,  
Tue 28 February - Sat 5 April**



## Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake

Firmly established as a modern-day classic, Matthew Bourne's contemporary interpretation of the universally loved Swan Lake has been the recipient of over thirty international theatre awards - including three Tonys for its Broadway production. It's also the longest running ballet set both in the West End and across the Atlantic. Premiering at Sadlers Wells in 1995, Bourne's provocative version became an instant hit. Its all-male swans, character comedy and use of mime not only challenged more traditional interpretations of the work but also attracted a younger audience to the world of ballet. With four successful tours under its belt, the show this month returns to the Birmingham Hippodrome for its only Midlands date - miss it at your peril!

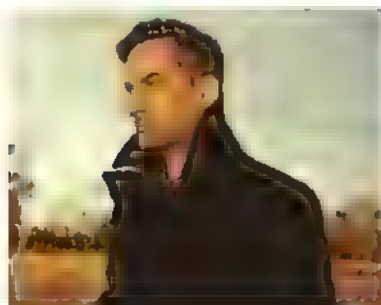
**Birmingham Hippodrome, Wed 5 - Sat 15 February**



## Bonobo

It looks like being another busy year for musician, producer and DJ Simon Green, stage name Bonobo. He's already confirmed slots at two of the world's most prestigious music festivals - Coachella and Sonar - and is also undertaking a twenty-date tour of Europe and the UK. All this after releasing his album *The North Borders* late last year. Still, with over ten years' experience, countless mix records and five successful albums - including *Dial M For Monkey* and *Black Sands* - under his belt, he's a man who's well used to busy schedules. He's accompanied at *The Institute* by a full live band.

**The Institute, Birmingham, Thurs 27 February**

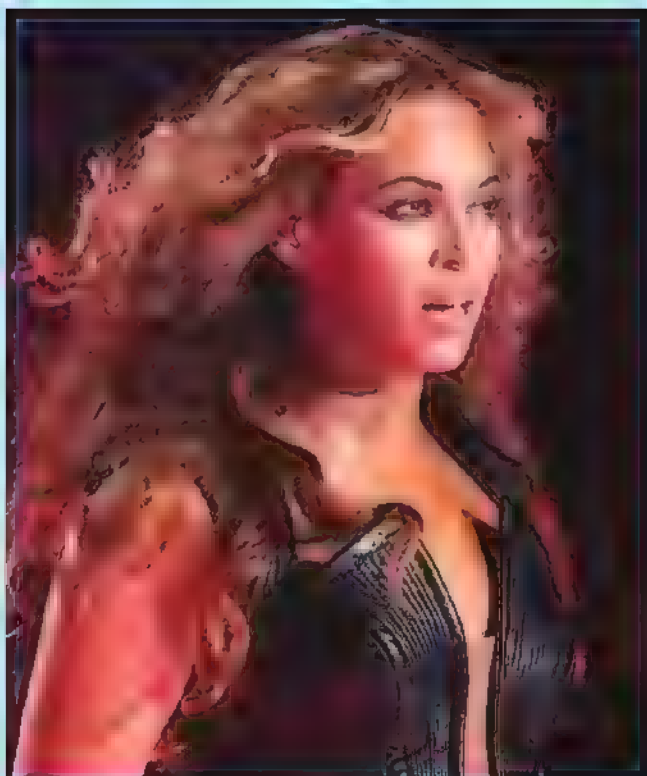


## Fierce and Fabulous

High-energy comedy extravaganza *Fierce And Fabulous* is hosted by Dana Alexander (as seen on BBC's Russell Howard's *Good News*) and Jonathan Mayor (The Sarah Millican Show and BBC Radio Four). Described as 'a show like no other', it incorporates numerous comedy genres, from stand-up and burlesque to drag and musical comedy. This is a gay-friendly party event showcasing the best and brightest of Britain's female, gay and alternative acts.

**The Glee Club, Birmingham,  
Wed 12 February**





## Beyoncé

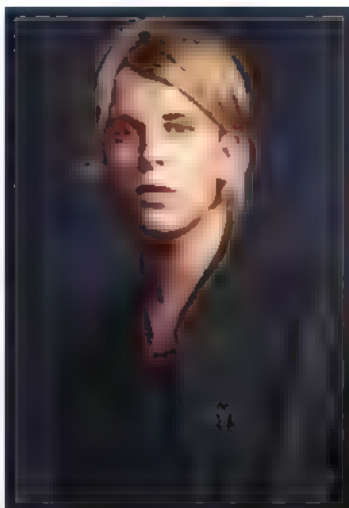
Famed for her high-energy performances and spectacular stage shows, Beyoncé Knowles' star continues to be in the ascendant. The former Destiny's Child singer is now one of the best selling music artists of all time, having notched up in excess of seventy-five million album sales worldwide. Not surprisingly given that fact, she's also bagged her fair share (and then some,) of gongs and accolades, including way more Grammy Awards than she's got fingers and no small number of MTV Video Music Awards. She visits Birmingham this month with her Mrs Carter Show, which was the highest grossing tour by a female artist in 2013.

LG Arena, Birmingham, Sun 23 - Mon 24 February

## Tom Odell

Shooting to fame with album *The Long Way Down* and standout single *Another Love*, Tom Odell won the BRIT Awards Critics' Choice gong in 2013. Nominated for two BRITs this year, for Best British Male Solo Artist and British Breakthrough Act, Tom shows no sign of slowing down, and will stop off at five UK venues on this tour. Recently revealing his fear of spiders when one crawled across his piano onstage in Tasmania, he's forecast that fellow artist Sam Smith will have 'a huge year' in 2014 - as long as he watches out for spiders!

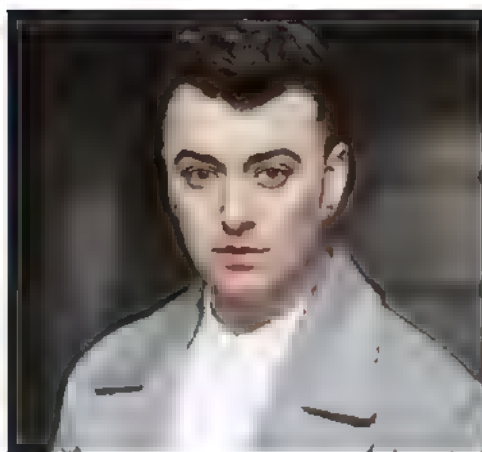
Civic Hall, Wolverhampton,  
Sun 9 February



## Suzanne Vega

A sensitive, deeply personal artist, whose success prefigured a wave of singer/songwriters, Suzanne Vega first reached international attention with the massive single *Mariene On The Wall*. Each of her following albums has seen her making plenty of musical developments, even if the themes have remained pretty much constant. Although unlikely to regain the levels of success she enjoyed in the late-1980s, mainly because there's so much competition these days, she remains a thoughtful and rewarding performer. Her 2014 world tour is in celebration of her new album *Tales From The Realm Of The Queen Of Pentacles*.

Town Hall, Birmingham, Mon 3 February

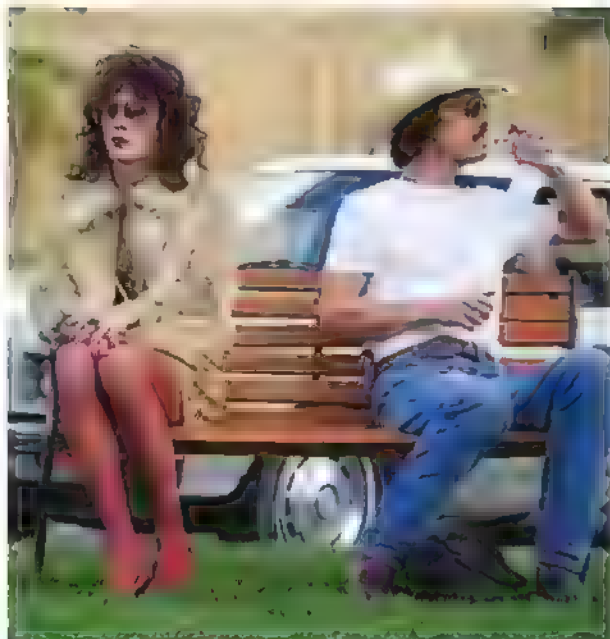


## Sam Smith

To say that the soulful voiced Sam Smith has had a good start to 2014 would be an understatement. From featured vocalist for Disclosure to achieving standout success, Sam is making the industry sit up and take notice. Named Critics' Choice ahead of this month's BRIT Awards, he also won the BBC's Sound Of 2014 award, beating off opposition from Ella Eyre, Banks, Sampha and George Ezra in the process. This Institute gig is one of six special UK dates he's playing prior to the May release of his debut album, *The Lonely Hour*.

The Institute, Birmingham, Fri 28 February





## The Dallas Buyers Club

**CERT 15** (157 mins)

Starring Matthew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner, Jared Leto, Steve Zahn, Dallas Roberts Directed by Jean-Marc Vallée (USA)

For his performance as a homophobic rodeo jock who contracts Aids, Matthew McConaughey did a Christian Bale and lost a remarkable fifty pounds. He won a Golden Globe (and an Oscar nomination) for his pains, as did his co-star Jared Leto (songwriter and lead vocalist for the rock band Thirty Seconds To Mars), who plays a transgender woman. For the record, the film - based on a lengthy article in the Dallas Morning News - is a true story. The director previously brought us the acclaimed films C.R.A.Z.Y., The Young Victoria and Café de Flore. **Out 7 February**



## Non Stop **CERT tbc**

Starring Liam Neeson, Julianne Moore, Michelle Dockery, Nate Parker, Linus Roache, Lupita Nyong'o Directed by Jaume Collet-Serra (USA/France)

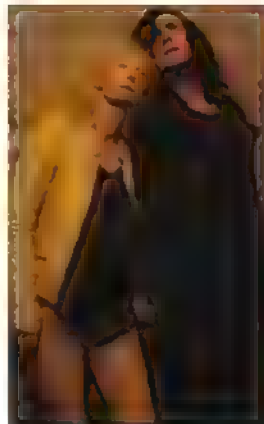
Liam Neeson is back in action, this time as an air marshal, who's sent a text announcing that a passenger will die every twenty minutes unless \$150million is transferred to a secret bank account. At the very least, it'll be good to see Dockery (Downton Abbey) and Oscar nominee Nyong'o (12 Years A Slave) in new roles. **Out 28 February**

## Only Lovers Left Alive

**CERT 15** (123 mins)

Starring Tom Hiddleston, Tilda Swinton, Mia Wasikowska, John Hurt, Anton Yelchin, Jeffrey Wright Directed by Jim Jarmusch (UK/Germany)

Yep, this is yet another vampire movie. But as it's directed by Jim Jarmusch, this will be different than most. The director describes it as a "crypto-vampire love story" and it stars Hiddleston as a reclusive centuries-old rock star who's finding it hard to keep up with modern technology. In fact, it's all getting so much that he decides to take his own life! **Out 21 February**

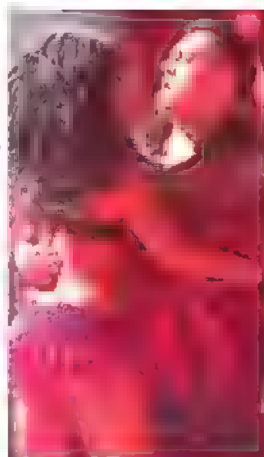


## Cuban Fury

**CERT 15** (98 mins)

Starring Nick Frost, Rashida Jones, Chris O'Dowd, Ian McShane, Olivia Colman, Alexandra Roach, Rory Kinnear Directed by James Griffiths (UK)

With Nick Frost's growing cinematic profile and the popularity of Strictly Come Dancing, this salsa comedy could break out. Frost plays Bruce, a loser who's got a crush on his beautiful American boss, Julia (Jones, from TV's Parks And Recreation). Then he discovers she has a secret passion: salsa. And many, many years ago, Bruce was something of a child prodigy of the Latin dance. **Out 14 February**



## The Monuments Men **CERT 12a** (118 mins)

Starring George Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, John Goodman, Jean Dujardin, Bob Balaban, Hugh Bonneville, Cate Blanchett Directed by George Clooney (USA/Germany)

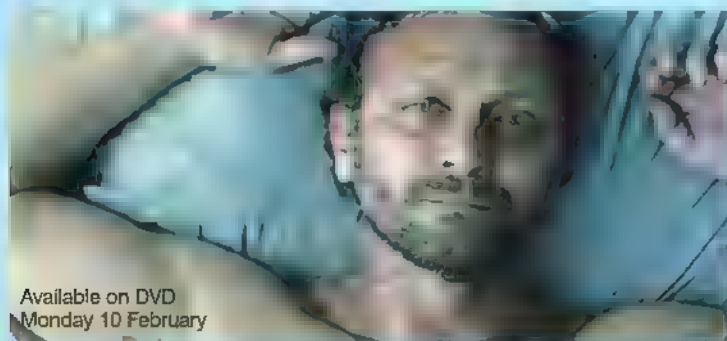
George Clooney surrounds himself with another all-star cast for what looks like a fascinating slice of Second World War history. Based on the book by Robert M Edsel, this is the true story of a group of art historians and curators who are conscripted to infiltrate Nazi Germany in order to track down invaluable works of art. It transpires that Hitler looted Europe and Russia on an epic scale, seizing an enormous quantity of priceless paintings, sculpture, furniture and artefacts to store in his hometown of Linz in Austria. And we're talking works by Leonardo Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Rembrandt and Vermeer, many of which are still missing. Clooney himself wrote the screenplay along with his long-time collaborator Grant Heslov. **Out 14 February**

## DVDs

## In The Name Of (15)

Father Adam is relocated to a rural village, where he runs a refuge for youths with troubled pasts. It's there that he meets handsome outsider Lukasz. Father Adam soon finds himself struggling to reconcile his attraction to the young man and his spiritual calling. His energy and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated by the locals, who accept him

as one of their own. Everybody wants to be close to him, feeding off his vitality and power - but nobody knows the secret that Father Adam harbours... Directed by Małgosia Szumowska and winner of the Teddy Award for Best Feature Film, *In The Name Of* is a sensual and deeply visceral portrayal of a Catholic priest battling his own desires.



Available on DVD  
Monday 10 February

## The Passenger (15)

Sexual and moral boundaries are put to the test in this provocative new drama, when a handsome stranger begins to infiltrate the lives of two artists. While searching for a condo in Berlin for his father Nick meets talented young photographer Philipp and gorgeous actress Lili.

The chemistry is instant, and both are easily

seduced by Nick's charms. Lili and Philipp begin to explore their relationship with the sexy visitor, succumbing to their passionate affections for him as their volatile emotional and physical bond intensifies. But what Philipp and Lili don't realise is that they're being lured into Nick's manipulative - and deadly - love game.



Available on DVD  
Monday 10 February

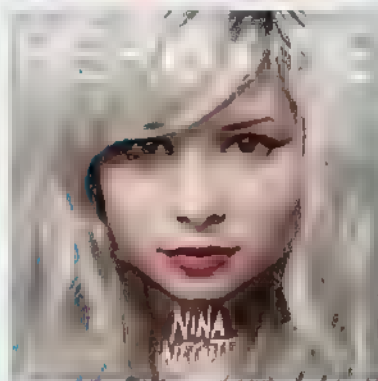
## ...and something to read

## Wide Asleep by Nick Nolan

Arthur Blauefee promised to stay away from Jeremy Tyler forever. But when he learns that his heartbroken ex-lover has been seduced and swindled out of his inheritance, Arthur is off to the rescue. After rekindling their passionate affair, the starry-eyed lovers learn that Jeremy's plight has worsened. Not only has he been cheated out of his fortune, he's been framed for murder. Desperate to clear Jeremy's name, the pair travel to Greece in pursuit of conman Lazzaro Sforza, and enter a shady world of sex rings, drugs and intrigue. Can Arthur and Jeremy finally trump the scheming Lazzaro, or are they doomed to repeat their ill-fated pasts?



## New Music



## Peroxide - Deluxe Edition

Nina Nesbitt

This is the debut album from the critically acclaimed half Scottish, half Swedish singer-songwriter Nina Nesbitt. This much anticipated album features singles such as 'Selfies', 'Stay Out' and a cover of Fleetwood Mac's 'Don't Stop'.



## Little Red

Katy B

The new album from the versatile London-based Katy B is set to storm the charts this month. The garage/dubstep artist was nominated for the 2011 Mercury Music Prize. The new album features future hits, such as 'Crying For A Reason' and '5 AM'.

## So Long, See You Tomorrow

Bombay Bicycle Club

The next album from Bombay Bicycle Club is set to be a hit following the success of their previous album *Flaws*. It's worth a listen if you're a fan of their work.







# Living With HIV: Your frequently asked questions answered...

Since I started writing about HIV two-and-a-half years ago, I've had thousands of people ask me questions. I thought it might be a good time to answer a few of the most frequently asked ones...

## What's the difference between HIV and AIDS? Is it the same thing?

They're very different, but one can lead to the other. HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus that affects humans - it destroys their immune system. AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is a syndrome (which is a collection of symptoms) which can occur if a person who is HIV-positive doesn't take or respond to treatment. While you can contract HIV, you cannot contract AIDS.

## How long do you have left to live?

Just as long as anyone else. As long as they're diagnosed early enough, people living with HIV can expect to live just as long as their friends and family, thanks to modern treatment. Some experts are even suggesting people with HIV will live even longer than average, thanks to the excellent health monitoring we end up getting as part of our care.

## What's your treatment like? HIV is just one pill a day now, right?

Well, yes and no. I'm lucky enough to be on one pill a day - one very large pill! My pill combines three drugs that were previously all separate pills, hence it being so large. But others aren't so lucky. Depending on which strain of HIV you have, some drugs won't work. I know people on five pills, three times a day. That's before all the other health complaints too. My HIV makes my cold sores much worse (so I'm on another pill for that), and also impacts on my blood cells (another pill for that, too). The treatment isn't without side-effects either - my first combination (I've since changed) gave me insomnia, hallucinations and night terrors. So

I'd say no - HIV isn't as simple as one pill a day.

## How did you get HIV? How can it be contracted?

Like 95% of people in the UK with HIV, I contracted the virus from unprotected sex. This was sex that I was having with someone who believed that they were HIV-negative. In 2012, over 80% of all new HIV infections, that's four out of five, were caused by someone who didn't know that they were HIV-positive. People on HIV treatment are much less likely to pass the virus on - some experts are saying it's near-impossible to do so after a year of successful ongoing treatment. You can contract HIV from unprotected anal and vaginal sex, oral sex (although this is pretty low-risk) and from sharing needles. You cannot contract HIV from kissing, hugging, holding hands, or by sharing bed/cup/toothbrush/towel.

## I've heard that people on HIV treatment aren't infectious anymore? Is that true?

There's actually a lot of truth to this. Researchers around the world have been conducting studies into whether successful HIV treatment can lower infection rates. HIV treatment is considered successful if a person's viral load (the amount of virus in the blood) is said to be 'undetectable' (so low that the machines our clinics use can't count it). That doesn't mean HIV has gone away - it just means there's not much there to count. This, in turn, means that there's less virus to pass on during sex. Studies so far have concentrated on monogamous heterosexual couples, but they showed a reduction of HIV infection of 96% when the HIV-positive partner was 'undetectable'. This doesn't necessarily translate to anal sex, as it's biologically a riskier

activity than vaginal sex, but there's still some truth in it. Even if Treatment As Prevention (as it's called) proves to be 100% effective at preventing HIV infection, there are still a lot of nasties out there like Syphilis and Hep C - and the only way to stop all of them is to use a condom. We might not like it, but such is life sometimes.



Hey guys! Don't know where to go for a sexual health check-up?

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www.mhsc.nhs.uk





## Pink Sou'westers seeking local LGBT talent for variety show

Gay social group Pink Sou'westers has space for a few extra acts at its forthcoming Alternative Variety Show on 15 March at Birmingham venue The Penthouse.

This informal cabaret-style evening will be hosted by award-winning comedienne Lara A King, showcase a variety of local talent and star lesbian band The Fingersmiths.

The evening offers an ideal opportunity for performers to display their skills and talents to a supportive audience. For more information, contact Jan Smith at j.e.smith000@gmail.com

## Birmingham LGBT Centre to host one-day course in self-confidence

A one-day course in self-confidence is being held at the Birmingham LGBT Centre on the first day of the month.

If you want to discover ways of building your confidence, this is the course for you. Join Psychologist and Coach Dr Gary Wood as he uses largely informal techniques to help people examine their thoughts, feelings and actions, and to impact on confidence.

The event takes place at the Birmingham LGBT Centre on Saturday 1 February from



9.30am to 4.30pm. Lunch is provided.

To book a place, contact Maria Hughes on 0121 643 0821 or email maria.hughes@bgbt.org

## National 'My LGB&T Health' event comes to Birmingham's LGBT Centre

A national LGBT event is taking place in Birmingham on Saturday 8 February. The National LGB&T Partnership, of which Birmingham LGBT is a member, is inviting the gay community to join the discussion on what's important to them in the field of LGBT health.

The partnership is holding three events on the 8th, the others being in London and Manchester providing key information about changes and developments relating to the issue of health and LGBT communities.

Birmingham LGBT will be looking at the needs of, and the issues faced by, older LGBT people. Paul Devlin, CEO of Health Watch Birmingham, and Ian Ledgerwood of Age UK Birmingham, are the speakers.

There will also be workshops on the issue of older LGBT people and housing. The Government Equalities Office will host a session too, asking LGBT people for their perspectives on prioritising issues facing the communities.

David Viney, LGBT Birmingham's Health &

Wellbeing Manager, commented: "This is an important national learning event, taking place simultaneously in Birmingham, Manchester and London. In Birmingham, we're looking at LGBT and ageing, which is an important emerging topic for many in the community and health and care professionals. I would encourage anyone with an interest to come and make your views heard."

The event is free, and tickets can be booked via [www.bgbt.org/centre/my-lgbt-health](http://www.bgbt.org/centre/my-lgbt-health)

### HEALTHY GAY LIFE

OPENING TIMES

#### Centre 146

**Tuesday**  
4.30pm-7.30pm  
Sexual Health Drop in  
Information and Advice  
Condom Packing Session

**Wednesday**  
8.00pm-9.00pm  
Blood Spot Testing for HIV  
Hep B & Hep C

**Friday**  
3.30pm-5.30pm  
Sexual Health Drop in  
Information & Advice  
Condom Packing Session

146 Bromsgrove Street  
Birmingham B5 8AG

**Healthy Gay Life Main Offices**  
10am-5pm Monday to Friday  
Atwood Green Health Centre, 30 Bath Row, Birmingham B15 1D  
Tel: 0121 448 8181  
[hgl@heartofengland.nhs.uk](mailto:hgl@heartofengland.nhs.uk)  
[www.hgl.nhs.uk](http://www.hgl.nhs.uk)

Providing Gay Men's (Gay, Bisexual, Trans and 'Men who have sex with Men') Sexual, Mental and Social Health

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A choice of a male or female counsellor  
Open to lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people  
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07976 819451

#### Sexual Health Clinic

**Thursday**  
10am-12 noon & 1pm-5pm  
Sexual Health Clinic (Last appointment 5pm)

Birmingham LGBT Centre  
Hokewy Circus B1 1ED

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0116 254 1747 • [www.tradesexualhealth.com](http://www.tradesexualhealth.com)



## Leicester LGBT Professional Network - A new event offering the chance to meet gay professionals in the city

Leicester's LGBT Centre has announced the launch of a new venture - an LGBT Professionals Network.

The launch evening takes place at the Leicester LGBT Centre on Tuesday 18 February at 6.30pm.

The aim of the network is to provide a gay-friendly environment for LGBT (and LGBT-friendly) businesses and professionals to meet, socialise and conduct business with like-minded individuals.

The city and surrounding counties' LGBT community is extremely large, and the network hopes to be able to combine interactions between LGBT companies and individuals with other organisations to promote and encourage more businesses to utilise the LGBT market.

The network has been launched by the centre's Board of Directors after many local businesses encountered difficulties

developing business within the LGBT community. The events will be hosted by Events Organiser David Farr.

The Leicester LGBT Professionals Network will endeavour to connect people from within the network in the hope of creating sustainable working relationships.

Running alongside the evenings members of the centre's youth group First Out, and young adults' group, All Sorts, will be openly invited to ascertain vital employment prospects and gain an insight into how business is conducted within Leicester.

The monthly evenings will not be all business however, there will be drinks, canapés, speed networking, charity raffles and prize giveaways.

The first event on Tuesday 18 February will be complimentary, all future events will be subject to membership and a small donation to the network.



For full listings for Midlands LGBT Community groups visit [www.midlandszone.co.uk](http://www.midlandszone.co.uk)

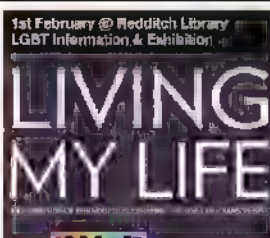
Do you think you have a drink problem?  
Have you recently had a drink problem?  
Are you the partner or friend of someone with alcohol related issues?  
Would you like support in dealing with the issues?

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From 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

You can email us at

Call us on

**Or just Drop In**



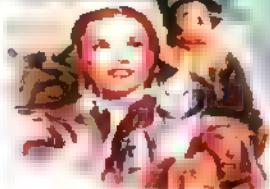
2014 will be the third year that Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils have worked in partnership with Arts and the Libraries in Bromsgrove and Redditch to offer a month's programme of events, exhibitions and information displays in recognition of LGBT History Month.



[www.artrix.co.uk](http://www.artrix.co.uk)

6th February 2014

The Wizard Of Oz



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Email: [info@shs.org.uk](mailto:info@shs.org.uk)  
Website: [www.shs.org.uk](http://www.shs.org.uk)  
summit\_house

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## SAUNA DIRECTORY



### GREENHOUSE

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Willenhall Road, Darlaston,  
West Midlands, WS10 8JG  
[gay-sauna.com](http://gay-sauna.com)

### SPARTAN

Tel: 0121 382 3345  
127 George Road,  
Erdington, Birmingham,  
B23 7SH  
[spartanhealthclub.co.uk](http://spartanhealthclub.co.uk)

### UNIT 2

Tel: 0121 622 7070  
Lower Essex Street,  
Birmingham, B5 6SN  
[unit2sauna.info](http://unit2sauna.info)

Check out the above venue adverts in this issue.

### CELTS

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Leicester LE3 1BQ  
[celts-sauna.co.uk](http://celts-sauna.co.uk)

### CITY STEAM

Tel: 01332 209150  
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DE1 3LF  
[citysteam.co.uk](http://citysteam.co.uk)

### CITY STEAM 2

Tel: 0115 959 8603  
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Nottingham, NG1 1ER  
[citysteam.co.uk](http://citysteam.co.uk)

### HEROES HEALTH CLUB

Tel: 01384 442030  
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Midlands DY8 1TE  
[heroeshealthclub.com](http://heroeshealthclub.com)

### MANZFIELDS

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[manzfields.co.uk](http://manzfields.co.uk)

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## BIRMINGHAM ADAM

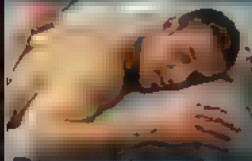
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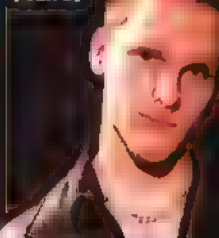
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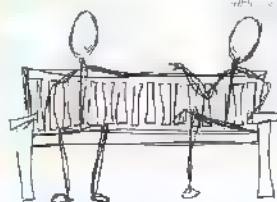
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**February 6th & 21st**  
**March 6th & 21st**  
**April 3rd & 18th**  
**May 1st & 16th**

first Thursday of the month: 2pm - 9pm  
third Friday of the month: 5pm - 8pm

clinic at  
**Chameleons**  
Birmingham City Centre, Postage W4N 7RQ  
free & confidential sexual health screening  
2nd Monday of the month 3-6pm

CLINIC at the  
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National Street, Walsall WS1 1JG  
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~ Ring for details ~

you do not have to be from Walsall to take advantage of this service

**Walsall HIV Team 07963 124 445**  
[momscolin@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:momscolin@walsall.gov.uk) ~ [melsmore@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:melsmore@walsall.gov.uk)  
Walsall Centre for Sexual Health (GUM) 01922 63 33 41

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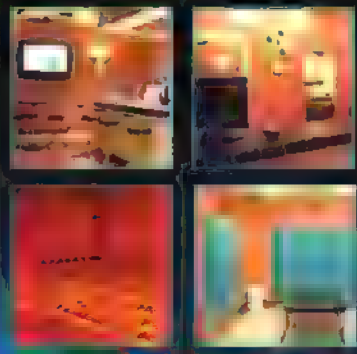
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GREENHOUSEHC

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## Central Birmingham Gay & Bisexual Health Club

- Steam Rooms
- Sauna
- Jacuzzi
- Rest Rooms
- Large Screen Cinema
- TV & Coffee Lounge
- Free Internet



## Opening Times

Sun-Thurs 12 noon - 11pm

Fri-Sat 12 noon - 12 midnight

Greenhouse Health Club & Sauna, Unit 2, The Pits, 100-102, Lower Essex Street, Birmingham B5 6SN



Lower Essex Street, Birmingham B5 6SN

Tel 0121 622 7070 www.unit2sauna.info

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FREE BUFFET AT 7PM

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## BEARS DAY

3rd Saturday Of The Month

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## ASYLUM NIGHT

1st Saturday Of The Month

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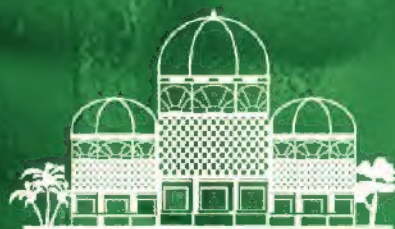
Willenhall Road  
Darlston, West Midlands  
WS10 8JG  
tel: 0121 568 6126  
email: [darlston@gay-sauna.com](mailto:darlston@gay-sauna.com)

## LUTON

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Luton, Bedfordshire  
LU1 1HX  
tel: 01582 487701  
email: [luton@gay-sauna.com](mailto:luton@gay-sauna.com)

## NEWPORT

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## THE GUDRUN LIMBRICK COLUMN

### Gay Power!

It turns out that 2014 isn't just an ordinary year; it's the year we really begin to understand what being gay is all about. It turns out we've been in the dark until now.

For a start, we're a lot more powerful than we thought. I mean, I knew we were good, but now I know that we're good! As UKIP councillor David Silvester pointed out, we can control the weather. Just by being granted marriage rights, he understands that we've caused widespread flooding in the south of England. I don't know about you, but I'm strutting about like Bruce Almighty in his new shreds. Okay, so we've yet to fine-tune our new powers, but, in time, we'll be able to summon up a bit of San Francisco sunshine at the drop of a (wide-brimmed sun) hat. I'm sure if we all get our practice in early enough, we'll be able to drop a few scorchingly hot days on Sochi to melt the freshly made Olympic snow and ice...

Talking of the Winter Olympics, Vladimir Putin has been attempting to cast off the shroud that Russia's anti-gay legislation has placed over the Sochi Games by saying that gay people, including Elton John, are, in fact, welcome at the Olympics. As often happens with these poor folk who're trying to dig themselves out of a hole, he instead managed to slip down even deeper, joining Mr Silvester in bestowing great powers upon gay people. Not only can we control the weather, we can also, according to Mr Putin, control children. We must leave the

children in peace and not make them gay. He's obviously never met anyone under the age of ten or he would be aware that controlling children is impossible, even for omnipotent gays. Try to tell a child to do/be anything and they'll do the complete opposite.

And while we're on the subject of 'people who should know better' managing to say completely ridiculous things about gayness while maintaining a comically straight face... Professor Dick Swaab (I promise I didn't make that name up), a scientist at the University of Amsterdam, has reported that women who smoke during their pregnancies have a greater likelihood of having lesbian daughters. And that women who're stressed are more likely to have a gay baby. Seeing as giving up smoking is, in itself, a stressful act, it looks like pregnant women are caught between a rock and hard place - that'll be a gay rock and a gay hard place, of course.

The marriage legislation of 2013 encouraged a feeling that maybe the world was being a bit less stupid about gayness. But in 2014, it's looking like the stupid is just growing and growing. I hope the rest of the year brings some sense. In the meantime, let's enjoy some good ol' gay weather!



## ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

### Young Minds

It's tough growing up, and it can be even tougher if you're lesbian or gay. According to a major report published last month, more than half of young gay people have suffered mental health issues, and 40 per cent have considered suicide.

The report warns that a generation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people face a mental health crisis, and that the neglect of LGBT issues by schools contributes to a climate of hostility and fear. The findings from the Youth Chances project - the biggest social research study into young LGBT people ever undertaken in England - also shows that 50 per cent have self-harmed and 42 per cent had sought medical help for anxiety or depression. One in five LGBT pupils reported being the victim of physical attacks at school. The majority, however, didn't report them, and only a small proportion of those who did felt that their concerns were resolved. Only a quarter said that they'd learned anything at school about safer sex with a same-sex partner. All respondents said that discrimination against LGBT people is still common, and that LGBT young people feel substantially less accepted in their local community than their heterosexual, non-trans counterparts - particularly in

religious organisations and sport. Nearly one in 10 LGBT young people have had to leave home for reasons relating to their sexuality. Trans young people face the greatest levels of disadvantage and discrimination, and report lower overall satisfaction with their lives. The report makes stark reading and confirms that we're failing young gay people. While we may have made huge progress in other areas of LGBT rights, young gay people continue to get a bad deal. Unless schools and politicians take the issue seriously and provide inclusive environments for all young people, we will see a huge rise in bullying and abuse, which, in turn, will lead to isolation and rejection. We can all play our part in making things better. Talking and writing to politicians, volunteering to be school governors and supporting charities like Birmingham LGBT and Stonewall are all undertakings which can make a difference.

## Quotes of the month...

Here we take some of our favourite (and often controversial) comments from [www.midlandszone.co.uk](http://www.midlandszone.co.uk), Facebook page and Twitter feed...



### TOWIE's Dan Osbourne causes a Splash on our Facebook page!

The water must have been cold on Splash, as he didn't look like that on the show!  
*Charlotte the Harlotte (via Facebook)*

This is definitely now the only reason I watch Splash! I used to think Tom Daley was the only reason, but since seeing this, Tom can do one!  
*Michael Turner (via Facebook)*

I've always hated The Only Way Is Essex, but after this, I think I'll be sure to tune in more often! Yummy, yummy, YUMMY!  
*Jordan Grove (via Facebook)*

Sorry to ruin it for you all, but surely he's got a pair of socks down there? It certainly didn't look that big on Splash the other week!  
*James Oakley (via Facebook)*

Oooo! Get in my bed, Dan! That is perfection - some would say 'carved by angels'!  
*Emily Jonson (via Facebook)*

Apart from his big package, there's nothing nice about him. He's ruined his body with those hideous tattoos!  
*David Crosby (via Facebook)*



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